MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Pete Liakakis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, October 17, 2008.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Helen Stone introduced Father Patrick O'Brien, who gave the Invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Dean Kicklighter, Chairman Pro Tem, District Seven
Helen L. Stone, District One
James J. Holmes, District Two
Patrick Shay, District Three
Patrick K. Farrell, District Four
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
David M. Gellatly, District Six

Also present: Russell Abolt, County Manager
Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Liakakis welcomed the Chatham County Youth Commissioners who were in attendance at the meeting: Erica Green, a Senior at Beach High School, Asia Calhoun, a Senior at Beach High School, and Tilly Isaacson, a Senior at Savannah Country Day School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR BENJAMIN THOMAS GAY ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 24 YEARS WITH SUPERIOR COURT.

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Farrell will present the proclamation.

Commissioner Farrell read the following proclamation into the record:

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees of high caliber that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard, we commend Benjamin Thomas Gay; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees of high caliber that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard, we commend Benjamin Thomas Gay; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Thomas Gay, a North Carolina native, first came to Savannah while in the Navy as a member of the crew USS Savannah and met the love of his life, his soul mate, his wife Jean, a Savannah native. They were married in January 1979 and after a tour of duty at the Pentagon returned to make Savannah their home; and

WHEREAS, Benjamin Thomas Gay began his employment with Chatham County as a Microfilm Clerk in Chatham County Superior Court on June 19, 1984. He was promoted to Deputy Clerk in the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court later that year. Since that time he has been a faithful employee for Chatham County who without being called upon shares his abilities, knowledge and expertise freely with those employees less experienced; and

WHEREAS, his duties provided him the opportunity to work closely with judges, members of the bar, the public, employees of other courts on both the local and appellate level and other state agencies, his insight and contributions have resulted in many improvements to our system of justice; and

WHEREAS, he took great pride in his duties and was a dedicated and valuable member and leader within the Office of the Clerk of Superior Court. He kept a positive attitude and strived to meet the many challenges that were placed upon him.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby salute:

BENJAMIN THOMAS GAY

upon his retirement and express sincere appreciation for over twenty-four years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and the Courts of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 17th day of October 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Dan Massey said, I'm Dan Massey, Clerk of the Superior Court. In writing resolutions of this kind, quite often it's difficult to come up with the right words. In Ben's case it was difficult to restrict it to only one page. The contributions that he has made to Chatham County over the years are second to none. His willingness to give freely of himself, his knowledge and his abilities to the citizens of this County and to other employees is unbelievable and beyond reproach. So I wish he and his love wife, Jean, all the best in his retirement and continued success.

Chairman Liakakis asked, Ben [Gay], do you want to come up and have a few words with us because I want you to know this County Commission, representing the entire County, really appreciate your knowledge and your passing that on to others so that would help us in the court system in many, many ways.

Mr. Gay said, I only have a few words to say. I would like to say it's been an honor to serve and it's also been a pleasure. I've enjoyed it from the first day I started in the Clerk's Office. I kind of stepped in at the right time because many had left so I advanced pretty quickly and was willing to learn and the three Clerks that I've worked for have given me the opportunities to better myself over the years. I really enjoyed it. Thank you very much.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Ben [Gay], Harris Odell. I'm sorry to see you go. I mean, it seemed like —. Mr. Gay said, a lot of people still don't believe it. Commissioner Odell said, I'm one of them because I come to you, you handle the civil suits that we file in and I can say as a member of the Bar practicing for the time that you've been in the Clerk's Office, you have been an absolute pleasure to deal with.

Mr. Gay said, I thank you for that. I could share one other thing. I had an attorney come in years ago that brought a new case to me and told me he didn't trust anybody else in the office. Thank you very much, Commissioner. Commissioner Odell said, I'm not going to touch that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, thank you.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR CAPTAIN DANIEL FOGARTY ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Liakakis said, I am going to ask his next-door neighbor, Commissioner Helen Stone, to present that and I would like the Sheriff and others that would like to come forth with Captain Fogarty. As many people know, he was named after his father, who had an exemplary service in the Army and has been a community activist for many years and his father also was able to bring the Veterans Clinic to our area with his long help and lobbying with Congress on that. So I'm sorry to see him go, too, because he did an outstanding job with the Sheriff's Department. Helen [Stone]?

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Obviously, this is a great privilege to be able to do this for a neighbor. He's not exactly a next-door neighbor, but he's a horse ride away. So he's right down the street and he shares the passion for those animals like I do and so we have a lot in common. And, yes, as you said, his father is just an outstanding person and I had the privilege of serving with his father on the Metropolitan Planning Commission and he had a lot to do with the fact that I actually entered the political arena. So, I'm going to get to this resolution. Come on up here, Chip [Fogarty]. Commissioner Stone read the proclamation as follows:

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard we commend Captain Daniel Fogarty; and

WHEREAS, Captain Daniel Fogarty began his employment with Chatham County on January 28, 1982 with the Chatham County Sheriff's Department and has been a valuable employee. Captain Fogarty has been instrumental in developing the Training Division of the Sheriff's Department to the level of one second to none within the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, his duties at the Chatham County Detention Center provided him the opportunity to work in an environment that allowed him to touch the lives of many individuals in a positive manner in an effort to provide the supervision, guidance and meaningful mentoring needed to become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, Captain Daniel Fogarty takes great pride in the uniform that he wore, the principles that he represented and the profession that he embraced, meeting the many challenges placed upon law enforcement officers each and every day as carriers of its high standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby salute:

CAPTAIN DANIEL FOGARTY

upon his retirement and express our sincere appreciation for over twenty six years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chatham County to be affixed this the 17th day of October 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, good morning. We're not really losing Chip [Fogarty]. Chip is retiring, but his love is teaching and we transferred him out of training so he could learn the operations end of it, but he has an opportunity to teach at the new Savannah Technical School the new Police Mandate Training Program and he came to me with this, and that's his love and I'm sure that we're going to be hiring a lot of those people in the future that Chip [Fogarty] has trained, and he'll do other training other there and we'll be sending some of our people. So I know he's retiring, but he ain't riding off into the sunset, going fishing or hunting or whatever it may be. He's going to be around. He's been a valuable asset. We've got a large department, we have a lot of people retiring and he's one of the good ones. Thank you.

Captain Fogarty said, thank you very much. I want to thank the Commission and as a retiree and as a former employer, I want to thank this Commission. Having sat through many years with other Commissions, I want to compliment you on the job you've done for your employees and now hopefully forever the retirees. I think you've done a terrific job. I have been impressed with the abilities you've demonstrated and the support you've given your County employees, who are the most valuable asset to Chatham County, and I had the pleasure of working for Sheriff St. Lawrence and Colonel Holmes and had the honor of teaching some of what I consider to be the finest officers in Chatham County, and that will always stay with me. I've made some great friendships. Lastly, I want to thank Helen Stone for putting up with me because I was always calling her saying what's this about, what's going on now, what are we doing, and Helen [Stone] always took the time to make sure that I had a thorough understanding and, of course, I will be picking her brain not only as a retiree, but as a voter and citizen of Chatham County. Once again, thank you. I appreciate all you've done for the employees of Chatham County and the retirees and I hope you will do and continue the good work. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Chip [Fogarty], I want you to know that your dedication and loyalty not only to the Sheriff's Department but to the citizens of Chatham County is really appreciate because of your long term service and not only working with the Sheriff's Department, but getting out into the community with charitable and civic things also made a difference, and we can see a lot of those officers that you trained have gone to higher heights within the Sheriff's Department because of your leadership there. So again on the County Commission, I really thank you for your hard work and you're going to be a great asset to bring your knowledge into the new organization because we can see the training that you will give them that that will help so we will have, you know, great law enforcement officers coming out of there and you'll be one of the reasons for that. Thanks again.

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3. PROCLAMATION FOR LIEUTENANT NANCY WHELESS ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Liakakis said, next up we have a member of the Sheriff's Department that has worked long and hard for the County and has done an outstanding job, and that's Lieutenant Nancy Wheless. If she'll come forth right now we will have her dedication and proclamation also.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Chairman and Commissioners, for allowing me — giving me the honor to present this. Commissioner Kicklighter then read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard we commend Lieutenant Nancy Wheless; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Nancy Wheless began her employment with Chatham County on January 4, 1982 as a Bailiff in the State Court and has worked in all areas of the Enforcement Bureau of the Chatham County Sheriff's Office to include assignment with the CNT, having outstanding knowledge of operations as a seasoned and productive member of the department; and

WHEREAS, her duties at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office provided her the opportunity to work in an environment that allowed her to touch the lives of many individuals in a positive manner in an effort to provide the supervision and guidance to her subordinates; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Nancy Wheless takes great pride in the uniform that she wore, the principles that she represented and the profession that she embraced, meeting the many challenges placed upon law enforcement officers each and every day as carriers of its high standards.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners do hereby salute:

LIEUTENANT NANCY WHELESS

upon his retirement and express our sincere appreciation for over twenty six-years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chatham County to be affixed this the 17th day of October 2008.

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Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, here's another one not riding off in the sunset that's going to be working for CNT now, retiring from the Sheriff's Department but working for CNT. Another great asset to the department. You hate to lose

them, but there are people that step up and do the job. So we wish her well with Commander Harris and the Counter Narcotics Team. She has been a good, dedicated employee for many years.

Lieutenant Wheless said, thank you. I'd like to thank the Commission also. I've been around Chatham County as you can tell for a long time, and this Board of Commissioners has really brought Chatham County to a level that I really am very proud to work for. I appreciate the opportunities given to me. I'm a graduate of the Carl Vinson Management School that Chatham County puts on and I'm very proud to have that under my belt and I've put it to good use. I'd like to thank the Sheriff for the opportunities he's given me, special assignments that the Counter Narcotics Team and the FBI's Violent Crime Task Force — I thought he was trying to get rid of me for a while as much as he assigned me out, but anyway I want to thank everyone and most of all I want to thank, there's a lot of people sitting back here that are really responsible for helping me get to where I am. They are the workers. They are the privates and the corporals and the sergeants of the Sheriffs Department that really do all of the work and made my job very easy, and I appreciate them. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, Nancy [Wheless], on behalf of the Chatham County Commission, we'd like to also extend our congratulations to you for your hard work, your dedication and your loyalty because these many years working in different avenues with the Sheriff's Department and, of course, with the Drug Squad CNT that we can see that you did do a lot, you know, for law enforcement in our community and it's really appreciated, and your new endeavor going over to CNT now as an employee, we wish you well in that area also.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Isaacson.

Youth Commissioner Isaacson said, on behalf of Chatham County Youth Commission, we would like to thank all of those who celebrate their retirement today for their service, duties and hard work for the community over these many years.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, thank you very much, Tilly [Isaacson], and I know that the two sheriffs that are retiring today appreciate that from the Chatham County Youth Commission for you bringing that up today.

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4. DEMONSTRATION OF SEX OFFENDER TRACKING SOFTWARE (SHERIFF ST. LAWRENCE).

Chairman Liakakis said, Sheriff, don't leave yet. Will you please come up to the podium because we're going to have you do a demonstration of the sex offender tracking software.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, yeah, let me for just a moment tell you what we've been doing. I wasn't too popular with this a couple of months ago, but we've got a software system that just wasn't adequate. We had the service but we did not have the system. My employees are —.

Chairman Liakakis said, just a minute. Jerrell [McRell], the microphones have gone. We can't hear the microphones now. Okay, try it again, Sheriff. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes. Chairman Liakakis said, okay, they are alright now.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, anyway to make a long story short, they came to me with the proposal that they had software that they found that would be adequate, but it would cost $10,000 a year. Well, the first thing I told them was that we didn't have the money and I wasn't committing $10,000 a year without having to come back up here, and this is not a good time to come up and ask for money. So I told them that they had to, you know, find some alternatives for me. Well, my staff got together with Lewis Leonard's staff and I can't tell you what a great job they did. As a matter of fact, I was — when they showed me the product, I was impressed to the extent to where I'm going to have it before the Georgia Sheriffs Association Winter Conference. I think all Sheriffs need to know what capabilities are out there that's better than what's on the market. Everybody's always trying to sell us something. I also want to thank not only Lewis's people and my staff, but the MPC and the Board of Assessors who helped a great deal in this. You can't help but be impressed with what they've come up with, and I don't know of anything on the market that will compare to it right now. So with that I'll — let's do it and see what you think.

Lt. Tommy Tillman said, good morning, Commissioners. Chairman Liakakis said, identify yourself for the record. Lt. Tillman said, I'm Lt. Tommy Tillman. I'm the Public Information Officer, Communications Office, for the Sheriff's Department. We got together — myself, Drew [Cree], Matt Fischer, the SORT Team — our Sex Offenders Registry Tracking Unit, and we got together and decided what we actually needed that would serve the needs of our department and this is what we came up with.

In the top left corner you'll see where you can search for sex offenders by zip code, and when you enter in your zip code what will pop up is a list of the registered sex offenders in that zip code complete with name, address, date of birth — name, address and crimes that they were convicted of. You can also map that individuals address, go straight to it, and it will bring up the red flag and let you know where it is.

The next menu that you can choose from, you can actually map all the registered sex offenders in a particular zip code. What we actually did was, we decided to put all the flags of all the registered sex offenders in Chatham County on the map because if somebody pulled up 31405, there may be one in 31406 that was right down the street that wouldn't come up, so we put all the registered sex offenders on their complete with their address and information, the charges and whatnot. It's a completely interactive map. You can either zoom in or zoom out and then when you go over one of these red flag, the information will come up and you can actually click and drag the map all around.

The next category, you can actually search for somebody online by name, if you have first name or last name, and you can pull that person up, everybody on the Sex Offender Registry with that first or last name that you searched, of if you know their complete you can search them completely. And the top right-hand box is probably the most present thing that we have on there. You can actually register your zip code and email for a notification of anytime a sex offender moves into your zip code. They won't have to go on and search daily to see if somebody is moving in their area, and they can register not only for their home address, but they can also register for their work address as well, the zip code.

The bottom right hand corner, we hate that this box is even necessary, but that's a box that shows the absconders of the registered sex offenders that have avoided supervision. Maybe they failed to register or they've moved or changed jobs or whatever, and they are no longer reporting. They are what we call our absconders. We are actively looking for them. We're asking the public to give us a hand. As you know, we have 200,000 people in our community, and that's 200,000 sets of eye that are better than the two sets of eyes that we have for the Sex Offender Tracking Team. Hopefully, this box will stay empty as much as possible. These are absconders and we have a message from the Sheriff and the information are of absconders that we're actually looking for. You can click on the highlighted text and it will click a wanted poster for the citizens of the community. Business centers display this wanted poster in their store window to help us get the information out to the public that these people are wanted. And, of course, this is some of the information that we've already discussed a couple of weeks ago whether our computer.com program can help parents to be safe and protect their children from dangerous essential predators that may be trying to contact their children on line with the computer program, and some of the things that parents need to do as guardians of our children as well as how they can actually obtain a copy of computer software program.

And this page is probably one of the most important pages we have. This is where we are asking the community if you have any questions, if you have information regarding anyone of the over 300 registered sex offenders in Chatham County, that they have violated or they have moved or what have you, please contact us, or if you have any information on our absconder sex offenders, please contact us and give us that information. I can assure the public if they do contact us, they will be within 24 to 48 hours, they will get a response back thanking them for their concern and information that they have presented to us.

And the next one is a link back to our home website, as you can see, and it has information about our Sex Offender Tracking website and all the other good information about the things we do at the Sheriff's Department.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, Tommy [Tillman]. Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, Lieutenant, first of all I'd like to congratulate you on this state of the art program. Chatham County Sheriff's Office is always been a very progressive law enforcement agency under the leadership of Al St. Lawrence and I appreciate that and we should never take that for granted. In regards to this program, are there any provisions to keep current — the photo graphs. I mean, these people age. Do they have to get their picture taken every year or something? Lt. Tillman said, they have to register every year. Commissioner Gellatly asked, and they get a picture taken? Lt. Tillman said, or every time they — a minimum of every year unless they are dangerous sexual predators where they have to register every six months. They move, change addresses, change work locations, whatever, they have to come in and change that. Every time they come in, they get a new photo and it's updated. The thing about this website is it updates immediately. You don't have to wait four, five days for the information to populate. It is real time. The information is accessible in real time. The District Attorney's office has access to this information real time. Once these people register, they have access to their registration information.

You know, I cannot take any of the credit. Andrew Cree, he works for ICS, and Matt Fischer, who's hiding over there, Lewis Leonard, you're hiding from me, they did a wonderful job with this. This is far better than anything we could have purchased. The Sheriff talked about how much it cost and it didn't even adequately fill our needs. It was just piece-mealed together and it was nothing as impressive as this. All we have into this section package is they are man hours. They have done a wonderful job. They kept coming to us, "What do you want? What do you need? We'll be glad to put it in." And it was a collaborative effort and you should be proud of the department heads for working together and for the employees that you have working together to help save the taxpayers of Chatham County money. And that's all I have to say unless y'all have some other questions.

Commissioner Farrell said, one question. For the benefit of the folks watching this, could you explain how the general public can access this one more time? Lt. Tillman said, yes. I keep forgetting to do that and I apologize. The web address is: sort — that's sort.chathamsheriff.org.

Chairman Liakakis said, repeat that one more time, Tommy [Tillman]. Lt. Tillman said, it's sort.chathamsheriff.org and that will take you directly to it.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Youth Commissioner Calhoun. Youth Commissioner Calhoun said, well, I was just going to ask him that. Chairman Liakakis said, okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, had a question also. Well, Tommy [Tillman], thank you very much. We really appreciate putting it together. Russ [Abolt], you wanted to make a statement also.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, you'll notice from the supporting documentation staff thanks you again. You know, for years we talked about, dreamed about a webmaster. You all made it possible. You put the funding there. In addition to y'all and the fine folks you've heard this morning, I want to congratulate Lewis Leonard. Lewis Leonard is a man of great capability, great patience, and I've likened him to "Q" on James Bond every time. Here's another example where "Q" has come forward for this case our James Bond, Sheriff St. Lawrence and his staff, but Lewis [Leonard] is always there – interoperable communications. He's done amazing things and the reason he's been able to do them of late is because of this County Commission, and for that we say thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, the Sheriff, come up there a minute. I want to say something in just a moment, but this is a great example how the citizens, the Chatham County Sheriff's Department work together, not only the Sheriff's Department, but our departments working together because here under the leadership of Lewis Leonard and, of course, his two staff members have brought together a great software for the protection of the citizens of Chatham County, and this is really great. People have no idea how many sex offenders there are in Chatham County. A law was past in recent years about that the Sheriff's Department had the obligation to now come on board and to supervise and make sure that the sex offenders are known in the community and that they are living where they are supposed to be living and other things. We've had too many problems in the past with certain sex offenders that continued to pray on the citizens, the children and others in our community, and now with this program it really helps out because we can see that if you live in a neighborhood, you can go to this website and get the information or you see something suspicious you can bring that about and help the Sheriff's Department, but we want to make sure that all of the citizens in Chatham County have the knowledge so that they can protect themselves and they know what's going on in their community. And, you know, I'd like to congratulate the Sheriff. You know, I've said this before, we've got the number one Sheriff not only in the State of Georgia, but in the entire country because we can see the progression that since he's been the Sheriff these 16 years, how many innovative things that he has put into process with all of his staff. He's got the best deputies and supervisors in his department and they go out in the community and do many things, and this is a great example of that. And, Sheriff, we really appreciate that very much. Now if we could do this,, if we — Jerrell [McRell], if you would roll those back up. Sheriff, I want you to stay up here right now because we've got a special presentation that's coming up this morning.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I'm not going to take credit for all. The only thing I'll take credit for is I told them there wasn't no money to spend $10,000 a year so they would have to come up with some alternatives. Chairman Liakakis said, no, because —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, they have done a tremendous job. Lewis [Leonard], is here. Lewis, have you got anything you want to say? Mr. Leonard said, I think Russ [Abolt] said it all. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, anyway we wanted you to know what we were doing.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah. Well, we appreciate that because you did participate in it.

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5. PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVE BURKE DAY TO SHERIFF ST. LAWRENCE.

Chairman Liakakis said, now I'd like to call on the Dean, the senior member of the Chatham Delegation, none other than House of Representative Burke Day. Burke?

Representative Day said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and each honorable member of this Commission. I'm going to ask that the deputies — available deputies and anybody else who would like to, to mosey on up here, as we say on Tybee. Just stand behind me for a second. And while they're doing that, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman and each of you County Commissioners, for being such a wonderful team for the entire Chatham County community. This is the first that I recall where we've had a wonderful working relationship between the local delegation and each one of you, and that's been an inspiration to those of us in the local delegation.

Representative Day said, I'm here on behalf of the House of Representatives and we want to honor a man whom you know well and whom the citizens of Chatham also know well, and that's our Sheriff Al St. Lawrence. He'll be celebrating his 50th year in law enforcement, which we believe is very commendable. And we have a House resolution that we're going to be presenting him now to that effect. I'm going to ask that my wife Sally come up and read it because my mouth gets dry when I talk in public and all my words stick together and I have to go slow, and I don't think you want a long resolution to go slow. So, Sally [Day], if you wouldn't mind coming up and reading it, I would appreciate it.

Mrs. Sally Day read the resolution as follows:

A Resolution by Representative Burke Day, District 163, Georgia House of Representative recognizing and commending Sheriff Al St. Lawrence for his 50 years of dedicated law enforcement service to the citizens of Georgia and for other purposes.

WHEREAS, Sheriff Al St. Lawrence has had a long and exceptional career in law enforcement, serving others oftentimes with great risk and sacrifice to himself and family; and

WHEREAS, his dedicated law enforcement career began on March 15, 1959, following his honorable service in the United States Air Force when he was employed as a patrolman with the Chatham County Police Department; and

WHEREAS, he continued his law enforcement service moving up through the ranks of the Chatham County Police Department, and on August 20, 1971, he was appointed Chief of Police by the Chatham County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 1992, he retired as Chief of Police only to continue his work for the people on May 26, 1992, as the newly elected Sheriff of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, he has loyally and diligently served the residents of Chatham County for nearly five decades, receiving numerous honors and recognitions for his outstanding service, including Chatham County Policeman of the Year, Georgia's Peace Officers' highest honor, the Executive Certificate, Georgia Chiefs of Police Association Outstanding Chief Award, Georgia Sheriffs Association Distinguished Humanitarian Award, and the Georgia Sheriffs Association Sheriff of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, his tremendous dedication and commitment to his community is further demonstrated by his service as Chairman on the Peach Officers Standards and Training Council, President of the Island Exchange Club, President of the FBI National Academy Associates, President of the Chatham County Chiefs Association, and President of the Georgia Sheriffs Association; and

WHEREAS, Al St. Lawrence is a loving husband to his wife, Patsy St. Lawrence, and a devoted father, grandfather and great-grandfather to his six children, thirteen grand-children and three great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Al St. Lawrence is a dedicated member of his community and a person of magnanimous strength and with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness and kindness, and his unparalleled leadership talent, his remarkable patience and diplomacy, his keen sense of vision, and his acute sensitivity to the needs of the citizens of his community and State have earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and all those who have had the great honor and privilege to know him.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Sheriff Al St. Lawrence is hereby commended for his nearly 50 years of sacrifice and honorable service to the people of Georgia and extended sincere best wishes for success in future endeavors.

Representative Day asked, with six children and all those grandchildren would that be time served?

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'm really humbled by this. I knew it was coming, Burke [Day] told me it was going to happen. Burke [Day] has been a great help to the Georgia Sheriffs Association. He's always got time for us at the capital and so forth, but I felt real good about this until he told me when I started he was four years old. But it's been a long road, but it's been a good one. I don't regret any of it. It's been a very rewarding career. Success is however you measure it in your profession, and I think it's been successful and —, but I am humbled by this. There's been many awards through the years and I'm really appreciative of them. I just want to keep on going. I don't hunt, don't fish, don't play golf, so I'm going to keep doing what I'm doing as long as I feel I can do it — get up 5:30 in the morning and be in the office at 7:30 or a quarter till eight, and when I can't do that I'm going to step down and let one of these guys take over — or ladies, whatever the case may be. But thank you again very much and thank you, Representative Day. I really appreciate it. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, just a few words from me, Al [St. Lawrence]. He's taking a deep breath and wondering what that might be. I'd like to put in perspective 50 years of law enforcement. The average law enforcement officer, if they make it to 24 to 30 years it's really outstanding. When I retired with 40 years, I thought, man, that's great, but 50 years —. The only other law enforcement officer that I know right off the top of my head that's completed 50 years of law enforcement was a Chief of Detectives in the Savannah Police Department in about the 1920's or 1930's, so

I think it's important to put that in perspective. This Sheriff and long-time law enforcement officer, he might be older than most right now, but I want to tell you that he's certainly the most current in law enforcement, and he's just brought forth some very highly technical and state of the art programs. He's continued to do that throughout his career. He's always been at the cutting edge of law enforcement and he has one of the highest levels of energy of any man that I know of and I've always said this since I've been here, he's not only a good friend of mine but he's also a mentor, and I deeply appreciate your service to this County, Al [St. Lawrence]. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you, Commissioner.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Sheriff, I'll further elaborate on putting 50 years of law enforcement out there. Eleven years after you started, I was born. So you've been doing it a long time. I'm sorry, I watched that comical debate last night. I don't know, but anyhow I just want to say that it's very clear by all the awards you've received from people in law enforcement, sheriff departments throughout the State, nation, police departments that clearly you are one of the best — if not the best — law enforcement administrators anywhere in the State and this nation, and I am thrilled that you continue to do and, like the Chief here — former Chief here said, you stay on top of everything. You're as current with everything on the websites and you do an awesome job, and I just want to say thank you for sticking around, and I want the public to know that we have the guy here that's clearly one of the best administrators around, and we have the opportunity to hire this man to work for us coming up in November, and I encourage them to hire you again. When you've got the best, I don't see letting you go. There's some case in my opinion where politics would be best left out of it. This is a case where I wish, because we have the best, that we could just appoint and hire and you wouldn't have to —, but I want the public to know in my opinion you clearly are the best and I encourage the public to get out there and hire you again. Don't let the best go, and that's nothing against anyone else running. I just truly believe it and I thank you for all of your years. We appreciate it.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I appreciate your comments and, again, there's many things that have humbled me in my career, but I want you to know that — and I truly believe that I've been very successful, but the reason I've been successful is I surround myself with good people and they make me look good.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], I just want to join in. We're going to start singing here if you get any more —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, please don't. Commissioner Odell said, but having been on this Commission and the general public doesn't know some of the substantial financial problems that we've had, and our department heads have worked in a partnership with us and you have been the leader in working with this Commission for what's in the best interest of this community without regard to politics, just regard —. We're all Americans. We are not Al-Qaida or Sheit and Sunni. We are Americans. We are citizens of Chatham County. As a citizen of Chatham County I am so grateful that we have you. When we have major issues, and you and I have sat in your office and debated the health insurance issue and gone back and forth in sharing ideas. It has really been good and I value that relationship that we've had with you. I am just overwhelmed that it's been 50 years. You still look like a teenager. You look younger than David [Gellatly].

Commissioner Farrell said, Harris [Odell], I think maybe he started law enforcement when he was five, I don't know.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Kicklighter said he was born eleven years after I started, and I've got Representative Day said he was four years old. So I don't —. Commissioner Odell said, these guys know how to make you feel good. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's been great and I try to keep up with myself and everything that's going on and, like I said, I've got good people working for me. If they weren't — if they didn't do the job they were doing, I wouldn't be running again. I can promise you that. I know that.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], not only from a political standpoint do I have much dealings with you and I'm extremely pleased with that, but as an attorney I still have a limited criminal practice. I only represent people who are innocent, and occasionally I come out there and your staff members — I mean, I go to jails all over not only Georgia, but Alabama and South Carolina. No one can compare — and I like that — no one can compare with the cost efficiency of this jail. I mean, we are heads and shoulders as far as getting the biggest bang of our buck for the taxpayers, and that is your job and you do an excellent job. I want to go on record and say that. You do an excellent job and grateful to have worked with you. I look forward to working with you in the future, too. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, and Al [St. Lawrence], as was said, you are the outstanding Sheriff in the entire country and we really appreciate that because we can see all of the things that have occurred since you were Chief of Police and, of course, as Sheriff of this department caring for the citizens out there, and you and your deputies, I mean, you've got the great deputies and all that are doing all kinds of things for the citizens, but for the homeless, for those people with muscular dystrophy, all these charities and civic things that your organization does to help this community, you know, to be a better community, and I really appreciate that. I know this Commission appreciates that and we are lucky and honored to have you as our Sheriff, and I know from that debate last night that your wife Patricia, she was just as proud of you as she could be, you know, after that. But I would also like to thank our senior member of the Legislative Delegation, Burke Day, who has worked hard for our community and has brought this, you know, to the Sheriff's Department because Burke Day has always worked hard in the community to make sure that we can have laws on

the books that would help the community as opposed to being burdensome. And, of course, with Sally [Day] there, you know, you go to Atlanta and, boy, she'll, you know, if she can, she'll help you and put you in touch with Burke [Day] if any citizen needs to do that. So I thank each one of you, and to all the deputies here and out there, thank you on behalf of the Chatham County Commission and the entire citizens of Chatham County.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Chairman, let me say one thing. I want to clarify one thing. I didn't watch your debate. That wasn't the comical thing I was referring to. I'm talking about the fund raiser with McCain and Obama where they had a good time picking with each other, but I want the public to know I made the joke about 11 years, me being born later. I challenge anyone 50 years younger to try to keep up with you or some of the others that may have great experience around here. You are one of the hardest working people and I'd hate to have to try to keep up with you on a day to day basis.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you very much. We try real hard to do what we need to do and there's — you know, I always believed that if there's a problem, there's got to be an answer to it and we've just got to find it.

Chairman Liakakis said, and Father Patrick [O'Brien], thank you for coming up today because you know how this goes. You've been the Chaplain for the Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement and we appreciate that also. Thank you.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, thank you.

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6. PROCLAMATION DECLARING NOVEMBER 2, 2008 AS RETIRED EDUCATORS' DAY. HUGH GOLSON WILL BE PRESENT TO ACCEPT.

Chairman Liakakis said, Commissioner Priscilla Thomas will do the proclamation and if you have anybody else that's with Hugh [Golson], if you'll come forth also.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, ladies and gentlemen. It's a pleasure to present this proclamation to you today having been or am a retired educator myself, and a member. Exactly right. So it is my esteemed privilege to present this proclamation at this time.

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of Georgia has proclaimed the day of Sunday, November 2, 2008, as Retired Educators Day in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 78,000 retired educators in Georgia, 17,750+ of whom are members of the Georgia Retired Educators Association (GREA); and

WHEREAS, the retired educators of Georgia donate thousands of hours of volunteer service and make invaluable contributions to the welfare of their respective communities across the state; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a day be designated for citizens to express their appreciation for the contributions that retired educators have made and continue to make for the betterment of human lives and for society; and

WHEREAS, local churches will recognize those lasting contributions made by retired educators in this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Pete Liakakis, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim, Sunday, November 2, 2008 as:

RETIRED EDUCATORS DAY

in Chatham County and call upon all citizens to observe that day in an appropriate manner honoring retired educators.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 17th day of October, 2008.

Pete Liakakis, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Commissioner Thomas said, congratulations.

Mr. Hugh Golson said, thank you very much. And I'd like to thank the Commission on behalf of the Chatham Retired Educators Association. A copy of your proclamation will be sent out to our churches. We're asking them to recognize retired teachers, to put it in their bulletins and on their sign boards. So we thank you in supporting this proclamation. I'll point out some of our officers with us. Ms. Annie Welch with the camera over here, our Membership Chairman, and Ms. Lula Baker, our Public Relations person. Thank you so much for making this available to us.

Chairman Liakakis said, Hugh [Golson], thank you very much. It's important that we recognize that particular day because the teachers, the educators like yourself, have made a difference, and if we didn't have that education, many of us wouldn't be where we are today. The educators over the years, many years ago have struggled to do the things. They weren't paid very much, but they gave the — they were able to impart a lot to the people that were in the school systems and they went on form there and most of them, and to your officers right there, we thank them. And also to you as former President of the School Board and your many years of service to the community and your educational field, Hugh [Golson], thank you, and what you're doing, continuing to do things to help us with our children.

Mr. Golson said, that's one reason I work with this group because they all stay active working for schools and communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. REMINDER AS TO OPTION FOR EARLY VOTING.

Chairman Liakakis said, I want our citizens to know, some of you who might not have read the newspaper or watched television or whatever the case is, that this early voting that we had that started on September 21st has been pretty successful. As of I think yesterday there were a little over 17,000 people early voters that have come out and voted and we've got about, let's see, 114,000 more voters that are eligible to vote. And if you want to save time and want to not stand in long lines on November 4th, this early voting is good for all of the citizens. Now, we have some early voting extended day hours also that have been added. It's on October 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 21st, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 23rd, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and again on Saturday, October 25th, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. So they are extending these voter hours so our citizens have the opportunity to come out and vote. I know I was out there on the first day with the Mayor and others voting, and you go through the process of voting very quickly, and it's great that we have the citizens to show up.

Now, of course, the Voter Registration Office is where you go now to vote on Eisenhower. The week, the actual week before the election, we have four places in the community that you can go out and vote. You can go out to the Wilmington Island Library on the Eastside, the Mosquito Control to get the people on the Westside to have a close-by voting place at Mosquito Control at 65 Billy Hair Drive at the Airport, the Savannah Civic Center on Montgomery Street, and then the Voter Registration Main Office again on Eisenhower. So you'll have a week before the election four locations. I'm glad that I was able to as Commission Chairman to add those couple of additional ones at Mosquito Control and also with the Library on the Eastside. But all of the citizens are encouraged now to come out and vote. It's a very important election.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

None.

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VIII. TABLED/RECONSIDERED ITEMS

Unless action is contemplated at today's meeting, staff report and file material has not been duplicated in your agenda packet. The files are available from the Clerk. Those on which staff is requesting action are indicated by asterisk (*).

1. NEED FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING MOTION AT THE END OF YOUR LAST MEETING DEFINING TELERIDE SERVICE BOUNDARIES (COMMISSIONER FARRELL).

County Manager Abolt said, this actually isn't a tabled item. This is just to perfect the record. What happened, the motion was made at the very end of your last Board meeting and it was right at the moment of y'all leaving your seats and moving into the Green Room. That caused some concern as to whether or the not was taken while you were in regular meeting. So we would ask that Commissioner Farrell restate his motion and you would act on it today.

Commissioner Farrell said, the motion was, and I don't have it in front of me, that staff's recommendation to adjust the Teleride priority to within three-quarters of a mile of the fixed route bus to preserve federal funding for the Chatham Area Transit System.

County Attorney Hart asked, you're incorporating all of the language that was in your original motion, is that correct? Commissioner Farrell said, yes.

Chairman Liakakis said, we need a second. Commissioner Stone said, second. Commissioner Holmes said, second. Chairman Liakakis said, alright, we have a second. All in favor, let's go on the board.

Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification. I was not here, Jonathan [Hart], at this last meeting. County Attorney Hart said, I don't think I was present. The discussion was at CAT and then I think y'all voted on it here. I just don't know the background.

The Clerk said, you had actually gone into recess before the motion was made. You had voted to go into Executive Session —.

Commissioner Farrell said, it was a technical —.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, but I guess my question is in that I was not here for that meeting, are we redoing that and therefore I will not be able to vote or —. County Attorney Hart said, no, you can vote. This is a new motion so you certainly can vote.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what's the motion?

Commissioner Odell said, the boundaries for —. Commissioner Farrell said, boundaries for priority Teleride to pick up within three-quarters of a mile to fixed bus route to save the CAT funding, to keep it within.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I argued about it last time and I'm not going to grandstand —.

Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

Chairman Liakakis said, the motion carries.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, note to the newspaper: I did vote against it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to the Teleride service area be realigned so that it is with three-quarters mile of all fixed route services provided by CAT and thus be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Commissioners Stone and Holmes seconded the motion. Chairman Liakakis and Commissioners Stone, Holmes, Shay, Farrell, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

AGENDA ITEM: VIII-1
AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2008

~~**AGENDA ITEM: CAT IV-1**~~
~~**AGENDA DATE: October 3, 2008**~~

TO: Chatham Area Transit Authority Board of Directors

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: Joe M. Rivers, Interim Executive Director

ISSUE

To request that the CAT Board of Directors formally recommend to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners realignment of the Teleride service area so that it is within three-

quarters mile of all fixed route services provided by CAT prior to the end of 2008 and thus be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

BACKGROUND

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that public entities operating fixed route transportation services for the general public also provide complementary paratransit service to persons unable to use the fixed route system.

In April, 1992 the County Commissioners approved extension and expansion of TELERIDE paratransit service county-wide by contract with CAT. In January, 1993, Teleride service was expanded to serve all of Chatham County. Teleride service continues to be county-wide.

FACTS AND FINDINGS

1. The ADA requires that Teleride service be provided within three-quarters mile of all fixed route services provided by CAT. Currently, Teleride is provided throughout Chatham County, an area significantly larger than that required by the regulation. The impact of the wider boundaries for Teleride affects productivity and cost-effectiveness.

2. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has stated that CAT must be in compliance with the ADA regulations or risk loss of federal funding for the fixed route service. A tightening of the geographic coverage to the three-quarter mile ADA standard will reduce trip lengths, improve scheduling of trips, and ultimately increase productivity.

3. In an effort to address unmet transportation needs of those Teleride customers outside the three-quarters mile designation, CAT is exploring possible options available through the proposed Rural Transportation Program of the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center (RDC) for delivery of paratransit service.

4. Due to rising fuel costs and the unionization of Teleride operations, CAT staff anticipates recommendation of an increase to the Teleride fare in conjunction with fare realignments to the fixed route system later this year.

FUNDING

Teleride is funded from County's General Fund M&O.

ALTERNATIVES

The Board could choose to direct staff to explore other paratransit service delivery options.

POLICY ANALYSIS

The County contracts with CAT to provide the TELERIDE service. CAT subcontracts with First Transit to deliver the service. CAT must be in compliance with the ADA regulations requiring that the paratransit service area be within three-quarters mile of all fixed route services to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act or risk loss of federal funds for fixed route service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve staff's request to recommend to the Chatham County Commission realignment of the paratransit service area to within three-quarters mile of all CAT fixed route service prior to the end of 2008.

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IX. ITEMS FOR *INDIVIDUAL* ACTION

(Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.)

1. CNT MONTHLY REPORT GIVEN VERBALLY BY COMMANDER HARRIS.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have Commander Harris here from CNT with his monthly report. Commander Harris, would you come forth please.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, as Commander Harris comes forward, I want you all to go on the record that Commander Harris, I believe, 19 more years before he catches up with Sheriff St. Lawrence and I want to make sure he's here for those 19 years.

Chairman Liakakis said, so Roy [Harris], you just heard the statement from the County Manager. So put things in order so that you will be with us for these many, many years to continue the outstanding job that you're doing.

Commander Roy Harris said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning to everyone. I actually have 38 years of experience right now as I stand before you. I know I look young to do that. County Manager Abolt said, crossing guard duty doesn't count. Commander Harris said, if you go back to that I was a school crossing guard, too, and I can add those years. I appreciate you reminding me of that, Mr. Manager.

Commander Harris said, again, good morning to the Commissioners and the Youth Commission this morning. Good to have you folks with us for government in progress. For the record I am Commander Harris fo the Counter Narcotics Team, and if you will look on page one, Significant Events, you'll see the first five items listed there were cases made last month all as a result of informant or confidential source information, which as all of you folks know is the lifeblood of any good narcotics unit. But on these you will see several good arrests that they made as a result of this informant information, particularly with Items 1 and 3.

When you get down to Item 4, this was an unusual case where we had a young man selling cutting agents out of a store that was actually used to cut Cocaine. What they do when they do these cutting agents is actually increase your profit considerably. If you get 90% pure Cocaine in, you can cut it or step on it it is called, tell it gets down to street level. The inherent danger in all of this is if somebody is used to, say, getting a 20 or 30% Cocaine product on the street and injecting it or snorting it, if it's not cut properly and they get it out there and it's much higher, then you can have the risk of death or other serious medical conditions. But this was an illegal product that he was selling.

Item 5 was interesting where we had a young man go out to the Sheriff's Office to visit another inmate and unfortunately the Sheriff was conducting a canine search of the parking lot. The dog hit on the car, our folks were notified, they went out and did a search warrant and did recover Marijuana and some other drug items out of the car. I hope that would be a message to folks if they go out to the Sheriff's Department to see people in jail not to take anything illegal with them while they're doing so.

Item 6, we did another joint investigation with NCIS and arrested six individuals. This was just a one night, a few hours project in the downtown area prior to the arrival of a destroyer. And if you will notice there, we had five people of the six defendants had 12 prior arrests and one who was a young man in his early 20's had 26 prior arrests for various types of crimes. This person was not on parole nor was he on probation at the time of the arrest, and it's hard for me to imagine how this could happen, but I know I tell you Commissioners individually when you call and talk about a hot spot that you've received complaints on from the public and we go out and deal with these folks and they're arrested and a few weeks later they're calling you back saying, hey, the police didn't do their job; they're back. We have no control over that. We're seeing that. These are — if they are put in as a nonviolent offender, they're not going to stay very long in the State system as we speak, which is why we are working as hard as we can and next month I anticipate a large number of indictments on a major case that you know we have been working on for some time now. Hopefully, a lot of these folks will be facing federal charges and once you send them off in the federal system, they're going to serve 90% of the sentence. So we will be shed of them, so to speak, for a longer period of time.

Also, tomorrow — you will see a couple of news releases will be going out today on some fairly significant seizures. One of them is a very large seizure that I'm not at liberty to discuss further until this does go out and it's going to be released by Customs sometime today.

We had an audit team in here in the past few weeks to look at our Property Room. They spent an entire week there, a three-person team, going over all of the evidence and verified that all of our drug evidence was there and properly labeled and identified all of the weapons that had been seized were there and accounted for. We did not have time to finish going back to drugs that we had all the way back to 1994, and we're going to make a considerable effort here within the next six months to get destruction orders on all of this old evidence and get rid of it because it is taking up room in the Property Room and I seriously don't believe that we're going to be prosecuting anybody from cases that go that far back. If they haven't been adjudicated from some other reason, that's going to be unlikely.

Page 3. One of the things I wanted to do when I got here was reverse the buys that we were making. Here before mostly most of the buys were confidential informant buys, which are necessary, but many times these informants will not testify and these are used to develop search warrants, but undercover buys where we actually have an undercover sworn officer make the buy to me is a lot more comforting. That's what I was used to in the State system, and you will see that we have reversed that somewhat where we made 26 of those buys as opposed to 18. We have 82 active investigations ongoing currently, five of these are major joint investigations with DEA, AFT, IRS, and other agencies such as that. You noticed in the front section there where we had I think 10 weapons seized, guns seized over this time. We are unfortunately continuing to see this trend of young people that are in the drug business that are armed with firearms. As we can see from the street robbers we're having and aggravated assaults and other things, they're not afraid to use them. So that is a trend. I was very happy to see this week the Mayor and the other members of the City going forward with this ordinance about holding parents accountable for these young people that are out on the street in the middle of the night because when we're out there working we see them aimlessly wandering about and, as they stated, they're not looking for a church that's open to get into. They're looking for trouble to be out there, and something's got to be done along that line.

Under Drug Complaints Investigated, Crime Stoppers again was number one. I always brag about this program at Crime Stoppers. It is really great and we get a lot of very good information from these complaints that come in. The people are comfortable using it and I'm proud that we have it here.

Back on page 6, if you just glance at 6 and we'll go over to 7 and we look at the hours. Essential precincts again in Metro's area was the recipient of the highest number of hours and Garden City, which is normal, that's usually our two highest of the agencies we serve, but we had 494 training hours. The reason for this spike in training hours was we had a lot of our people that were certified to do misdemeanor Marijuana testing, they're certifications were expiring this year. So we were able to get the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab to send a Certification Scientist down to CNT and we were able to run 20 of our agents through that certification class along with other local agencies sent people. We invited them to participate. This was at great cost savings to us. If I had had to send 20 people to Atlanta, it would have been very difficult, so that run those hours up somewhat on that.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask you a question? Commander Harris said, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, the certification for Marijuana, that's not necessary for a person to testify as to whether or not the drug he or she observed or smelt was in fact Marijuana, is it?

Commander Harris said, his certification is really so they can testify in the lower courts on misdemeanor amounts of Marijuana. If it's a larger amount we have to have the lab do it, but the law is that on misdemeanor amounts they can. Once it's going through the testing process, and this is a 16-hour certification course that they have to renew to do it, and it's pretty rigorous. They make them go through all of the things and even have to spell the actual names of the drugs in court, but an officer in court, any officer can testify to the appearance, the smell of Marijuana burning, and things like that and that be recognized as probable cause to search. Commissioner Odell said, right. Commander Harris said, they could not say without some form of testing that this was in fact Marijuana or Cocaine or anything else. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Commander Harris said, the labs, as you know, are — because of the State budget — are not really in good shape as far as what is going on. They're talking about closing the Moultrie and the Columbus lab. We recently had a townhall meeting about two weeks ago out at the Savannah lab, and the Savannah lab is one of the shining examples that they have in the State system right now as far as turning around evidence and getting it back out reports. They are anywhere from 30 to 60 days turnaround, which a number of years ago it was up to six months on some types of drugs and crimes. Probably the slowest here is firearms examinations. They may be 60 days turnaround, but they only have one firearms examiner here at this lab, and we provide a lot of business. I say we — in area law enforcement. Every weapon we seize is sent out there to run through their open homicide files to make sure we don't have a homicide weapon on our hands.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Commander Harris, I noticed on page 4 when you talked about the number of people arrested, prescription drugs seems to be fairly high up there. Is this — I heard through — doing lunchroom duty and being involved in my children's schools — that the sale of prescription drugs by young people has increased significantly. Commander Harris said, it has unfortunately. It has increased across the board. We're having — we're arresting people and our Prescription Drug Investigator knows a lot of these people because they are repeat offenders, and they will structure different ID's and things to go around and get prescriptions, they will steal prescription pads, they will do whatever needed to do to get these drugs, many times because they are addicted to the drug, but a lot of them are to sell, and the things we are telling parents when we go out to the community meetings is just because it's in your medicine cabinet does not mean the children don't know it's there, and a lot of it is stolen out of those medicine cabinets for them to experiment with and many times to sell. Oxycontin, which is a long term pain drug for normally for cancer patients, will sell for $50 a pill on the street. So you're talking about a lot of money that's available to people. We're going to — Chief Lovett I think left, but he's working diligently to fill some of the positions that we have and one of the officers identified had previously been at CNT and worked in the Pharmaceutical Unit, so as soon as she arrives back, she has been requested, we 're going to have two in that because of the growth that we're experiencing in that area of diversion of pharmaceutical drugs.

Commissioner Farrell asked, how many —. Commissioner Stone said, I was just —. Commissioner Farrell said, just one second. How many vacancies, you mentioned something about vacancies, how many do we have? Commander Harris said, the only vacancies we have currently are from Metro and we're down to about seven at this time. We recently received two, but I have some contract people that I filled in some of those slots too, so we will not be able to fill those, but when we contract them and bring them on board they're for specialty purposes, like Nancy [Wheless] is going to be one.

Commissioner Stone said, I guess, to go back to this question, in the breakdown, do you know how many of those nine people were juveniles, by any chance? Commander Harris said, I don't believe any of these arrested last month were. Most of them were —, most of these were repeat offenders and they were, in fact, folks that are known to us that do this to resell the drugs. Last year we were seeing a problem with this were people getting their prescriptions filled and then reporting a crime that they were burglarized or they were armed robbed in the parking lot and various other things, and along with Metro we sent a letter out to all of the pharmacists alerting them of that and the fact that we were not routinely or Metro would not routinely write a crime report on these cases so that they could run back in and get re-upped on their drugs because most of them were false. And one significant one, I remember, was at Wal-Mart where you know they have very good camera systems. The complainant said that she was robbed as she was getting in her car. We looked back at the camera systems. Nobody — she just put the drugs in the trunk and went back and called the police and was trying to get a crime report so she could go back in and re-up. Commissioner Stone said, thank you.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. You know, a big concern in this, two weeks ago when your people were working with Navy Criminal Investigation Service to arrest those drug dealers in town that would prey on servicepeople, especially Naval personnel when they come in on their ships, and one of those arrested had 26 prior arrests and they weren't

on probation or parole at that time. I brought this up before in the past and in the very near future I'm going to be requesting that an investigation be done where we have these types of arrests that are made, how can somebody with 26 arrests be out on the street, not having any parole or probation, there's something wrong with our system. And this has happened more than one time. So we've got somebody that could be very dangerous out there on the street, has been arrested 26 times and they're not serving any time. They're out on the street. So once we do this investigation and we can see that this has happened numerous times, you know, and have the actual evidence and bring that to the attention either to the court system or to the correction system, the people in the prison system, why are they allowing somebody with this long arrest record and some serious crimes be allowed to come on the street just because they might have crowding in their particular facility. That's what they usually say. But there's a problem with that. They have a responsibility to protect the citizens of our community and all of the communities around the State of Georgia and hopefully that this investigation will bring something up so this will stop in the future.

Commander Harris said, yes sir, I think you're headed in the right direction on that.

Chairman Liakakis said, thank you very much. We appreciate all your hard word, Commander Harris.

Commander Harris said, this young lady has a —. Don't make it hard now.

Youth Commissioner Isaacson said, I know you said those who are arrested for drugs is in relationships to other cities, has is that —. Commander Harris asked, in relationship to other cities? Youth Commissioner Isaacson said, yeah. Commander Harris said, well, every city has it's own unique drug problems. I came from the State level where we dealt with cities all over and every city has gang problems. Fortunately, this city our folks have recognized we have gang problems and have been trying to address those and some jurisdictions they don't want to do that and you can't stick your head in the sand and say, no, we don't have a problem. Here I see more proactive approaches to dealing with these drug problems, and we have — if you look back when I started and we were laughing with Sheriff St. Lawrence, when we started in law enforcement we only had a few types of drugs to deal with. They were bad drugs admittedly. We had Heroin and LSD and Marijuana and some Cocaine. These days we have dozens of different types of drugs on the street. We're seeing a resurgence in LSD in this area, we're seeing Methamphetamines, which is a new synthetic, we see a lot of designer drugs, your date rate drugs, Ruthies [phonetic], everything else is thrown into this mix. So when you see this list of drugs bought or seized every month, it is a long list of drugs that we are facing, and it seems to continue. So again without dealing with a few people doing specific drugs, we're dealing with a lot of people doing things, as Commissioner Stone said, now we have pharmaceuticals being misused, diverted, stolen, sold for profit, and various other things.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay. Thank you very much, Commander Harris.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Roy Harris gave an oral report for CNT for the month of September, 2008.

Chatham Savannah
Counter Narcotics Team
Monthly Report
September
2008

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Agents received information from a source indicating that 2 black males had been selling drugs out of a blue Chevrolet SUV with a North Carolina tag. The information indicated that the suspects were armed while conducting these transactions. Agents were able to locate the suspect's vehicle which was occupied in the Montgomery Landing Apartment complex. A take down of the vehicle was conducted resulting in two of the occupants fleeing on foot, one carrying a handgun. Both subjects were apprehended and two weapons were recovered, 4 pounds of marijuana were also found inside the vehicle. One of the suspects was wanted for questioning in a homicide.

2. Agents were notified by an informant of a subject who was selling drugs at the Time Saver at 728 West Oglethorpe Avenue. An undercover agent was sent in and was able to purchase cocaine from a subject who later was charged with Sales of Controlled Substance. In addition, the subject has an extensive criminal history.

3. Agents received CI information about a subject who had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. CNT agents received information about his location and responded to the house on West 46th Street. A handgun, a half ounce of powder cocaine and about an ounce of marijuana was recovered from the home. Charges are pending on the occupants of the house.

4. Major Case Unit concluded a 6 month investigation by executing a search warrant at the Rainbow Marketplace, located at 2016 Delesseps Avenue. This investigation revealed that the business was selling cocaine cutting agents by

depicting it as room deodorizer or incense. The business sold the cutting agents in quarter, half ounce, ounce, and even pound quantities. These cutting agents all contained Lidocaine which is listed as a dangerous drug and can't be dispensed without a prescription. The store owner was charging anywhere from $20 (quarter ounce) to $500 per pound for the cutting agents. Upon executing the search warrant, agents seized approximately 30 pounds of various cutting agents that were both in bulk form and broken down for distribution. The store owner was arrested for multiple counts of sale and possession of substances with the intent to alter controlled substances, which is a felony.

5. CNT received a phone call from the Sheriff's Department in reference to a subject that was at the facility visiting an intimate. K-9 units were doing checks on vehicles parked outside the facility and got a positive alert on one of the vehicles. Agents responded and later obtained a search warrant for the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed marijuana and other drug related items.

6. CNT and NCIS conducted a joint investigation targeting open air sales of drugs in the downtown area of Savannah. Undercover agents from NCIS and CNT went to various areas in the downtown area and solicited drugs from anyone that would sell to them. As a result of the operation, 6 people were arrested in connection with selling drugs to the undercover agents. Of the six defendants, five of them had at least 12 prior arrests, and **one of the subjects had 26 prior arrests**.

7. CNT responded to a call for assistance from the Thunderbolt Police Department. Thunderbolt police officers had originally conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle at which time a back seat passenger threw a gun and a bag containing a large amount of suspected marijuana and fled on foot. Agents responded and conducted interviews of the drivers and determined the identity of the rear passenger. Agents took the evidence (approximately 13 ounces of marijuana and two firearms) and secured warrants for the subject. Agents found the subject at his residence, on the 2600 block Evergreen Avenue. The subject again fled but was caught after a brief foot chase. The subject was found to be in possession of crack cocaine and approximately one thousand ($1000.00) in currency. A search of the residence produced several empty plastic bags, a digital scale, and several gun magazines. The subject was found to be on active probation from a previous drug offense.

UNDERCOVER BUYS	
Buys	**Number**
Undercover Buys	26
Confidential Informant Buys	18

SHORT – LONG TERM NARCOTICS INVESTIGATIONS*	
Investigations	**Number**
Investigations Initiated During the month	19
Active Investigations from prior months	70
Active **Joint** Investigations with other agencies (DEA, AFT, IRS, etc.)	5
Total Number of Active Investigations	82
Total Number of Active Investigations Cleared (Arrest, E.C., Unfounded)	7

* Not including on-view arrests

DRUGS SEIZED			
Drug Type	**Value**	**Approx. Weight**	**Approx. Total Value**
Powder Cocaine	$100 per gram*	30.0 Grams	$3,000
Crack Cocaine	$100 per gram*	25.9 Grams	$2,590

Methamphetamine	$100 per gram**	N/A	N/A
Marijuana	$140 per ounce*	65.7 Ounces	$9,198
Ecstasy	$25 Dosage Unit	8 D/U	$200
Misc Pills	Various	507 D/U	N/A
LSD	$10 Dosage Unit	61 D/U	$610

* Source: Office National Drug Control Policy
** Source: Established regional average price
***Source: IAW GBI reporting – One marijuana plant equals 2.2 lbs of processed marijuana

WEAPONS SEIZED	
Firearms (including hand guns and long guns)	10
PERSONS ARRESTED*	
Powder Cocaine – Possession	0
Powder Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	6
Powder Cocaine – Trafficking	0
Crack Cocaine – Possession	0
Crack Cocaine – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	7
Crack Cocaine – Trafficking	0
Marijuana – Possession	0
Marijuana – Possession with Intent to Distribute / Manufacture / Sale	5
Marijuana – Trafficking	0
Methamphetamine – Possession / Manufacture / Sale	1
MDMA / Ecstasy Sales / Possession / Trafficking	0
Prescription Drugs – Fraud / Forgery / Possession / Sale	9
Heroin Possession/Sales	0
Criminal Attempt to Possess Controlled Substances	2
Non-Drug Related Offenses**	8
Possession of Drug Related Objects	1
Conspiracy to Violate the GA Controlled Substance Act	0
Total Arrests	39

* Characterized by the highest charge filed, **NOT** total charges.
**Non-drug related offenses include firearms violations, Obstruction, Simple Battery, etc.

ADOPTION CASES FROM OTHER AGENCIES	
AGENCY	**OFFENSE**
09/06/08 – SCMPD	Manufacturing Marijuana

ASSET FORFEITURES	
US Currency Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	$4,007.00
US Currency Awarded	$5,764.00
Motor Vehicles Seized (Initiated forfeiture proceedings)	N/A
Motor Vehicles Awarded	N/A
Personal Property Awarded	N/A

DRUG COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED		
Drug Complaints	**Received**	**Assigned**
Project Log/Official Complaints	1	1
Green Sheets/ Outside Agencies	6	6
Hot line/ Call-In Complaints	12	12
Crime Stopper Complaints	31	27

COMMUNITY MEETINGS	
Sergeants and/or agents attended the following Community Meetings:	
1. On September 4, 2008, Commander Harris participated in a drug awareness interview at Crime Stoppers. 2. On September 22, 2008, Commander Harris, Captain McBurney, Lieutenant's Mitchell and Smith along with Sergeant Middleton attended a town hall meeting at Triplett Park in Pooler. 3. On September 23, 2008, a Drug Advisory Board meeting was held at CNT.	****In addition to these monthly meetings and activities the following are done every month:** -Every Monday Commander Harris attends the SCMPD Command Staff meeting at headquarters. -Every Wednesday, Captain McBurney and our intelligence agent attend a Compstat meeting held at SCMPD headquarters. This meeting addresses current statistics, crime trends and other activities that occurred during the week in the various Precincts.

TRAINING STATISTICS		
Course Title	**Agents Trained**	**Course hours per Agent**
Leadership Training (SCMPD)	1	24
Trauma First Aid	7	2
Constitutional Law & Supreme Court Update	12	8
Electronic Surveillance	1	40
Marijuana Certification Training	20	16

DRUG INVESTIGATION

HOURS WORKED BY ZONE

SCMPD – West Chatham Precinct	463
SCMPD – Downtown Precinct	180
SCMPD – Central Precinct	517
SCMPD – Southside Precinct	165
SCMPD – Islands Precinct	121
SCMPD – Skidaway Precinct	83
TOTAL	**1529**

Garden City	104
Port Wentworth	6
Bloomingdale	20
Pooler	18
Thunderbolt	4
Tybee Island	0
TOTAL	**152**

Out of County (Task Force Operations, etc.)	84
Assistance Rendered to Outside Agencies	29
Training	494
Court Hours	74
TOTAL	**681**

Total Hours Worked	**2362**

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X. ACTION *CALENDAR*

(The Board can entertain one motion to adopt the below-listed calendar. Such motion would mean adoption of staff's recommendation. Any Board Member may choose to pull an item from the calendar and it would be considered separately.)

Chairman Liakakis said, we have items on there, 1 through 5 and under 5 A through H. Do any of the Commissioners have any particular item you'd like to hold out? Otherwise, I'd like a motion to approve all items 1 through 5 and under 5 A through H.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, quick question. Fitness equipment, what is that for? Chairman Liakakis asked, which item? Commissioner Kicklighter said, H. County Manager Abolt said, in your packets there, ladies and gentlemen, we put a copy of the staff report we gave you in February where we outlined a multifaceted physical fitness program for employees. This would buy physical equipment to be installed at the Aquatic Center to compliment what we already use now to create incentives for employees to either become a member of a private fitness club or to use this facility. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Commissioner Farrell said, so moved, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, we have a motion on the floor to approve all of these items. Let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve Items 1 through 5-H, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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[NOTE: ACTION OF THE BOARD IS SHOWN ON EACH ITEM AS THOUGH AN INDIVIDUAL MOTION WAS MADE THEREON.]

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2008, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commission Farrell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 3, 2008. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 25, 2008, THROUGH OCTOBER 8, 2008.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period September 25, 2008, through October 8, 2008, in the amount of $8,432,226. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. REQUEST A NEW BEER AND WINE POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2008. PETITIONER: JAMES MICHAEL BULLUCK, D/B/A BULLUCK'S BAR-B-QUE, LOCATED AT 4C WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD, SAVANNAH, 31410. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the petition of James Michael Bulluck, d/b/a Bulluck's Bar-B-Que, located at 4C Wilmington Island Road, Savannah, 31410, for a new beer and wine pouring and Sunday Sales license in connection with a new restaurant. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-3
AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2008

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES
WILLIE LOVETT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE
Request approval for a new beer and wine pouring and Sunday Sales license for 2008, James Michael Bulluck d/b/a Bulluck's Bar-B-Que, located at 4C Wilmington Island Road Savannah, Georgia 31410.

BACKGROUND
Mr. Bulluck requests approval for a new beer and wine pouring and Sunday Sales license in connection with a new restaurant.

FACTS AND FINDINGS
1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.

2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Marshall inspected the site for compliance with the commercial kitchen requirements and approved the facility.

3. The applicant and business meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday sales Ordinance.

4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION
The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 4

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

_____ _____
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO Assistant Chief Willie Lovett

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4. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER AND WINE RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2008. PETITIONER: SACHINKUMER P. PATEL, D/B/A PRITAM ENTERPRISES, LLC, LOCATED AT 5316 AUGUSTA ROAD (HWY 21), SAVANNAH, 31408. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve the petition of Sachinkumer P. Patel, d/b/a Pritam Enterprises, LLC, located at 5316 Augusta Road (Highway 21), Savannah, 31408, for a new beer and wine retail license in connection with a new convenience store. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-4
AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2008

TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

THROUGH: R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER

FROM: GREGORI S. ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES
WILLIE LOVETT, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE

ISSUE
Request approval for a new beer and wine retail license for 2008, Sachinkumer P. Patel d/b/a Pritam Enterprises, LLC located at 5316 Augusta Road (Hwy 21), Savannah, Georgia 31408.

BACKGROUND
Mr. Patel requests approval for a new beer and wine retail license in connection with a new convenience store.

FACTS AND FINDINGS
1. The application was reviewed by the Police Department for compliance of the applicant and site distance requirements and approved.

2. The returned application was reviewed by Building Safety. The County Fire Marshall inspected the site for compliance.

3. The applicant and business meets the requirements of the Chatham County Alcoholic Beverage and Sunday sales Ordinance.

4. The applicant has been notified in writing of the date and time of the hearing.

RECOMMENDATION
The Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Regulatory Services recommend approval.

District 7

We verify that the attached report and attachments are complete and correct as to form.

_____ _____
Gregori S. Anderson, CBO Assistant Chief Willie Lovett

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO AWARD BIDS AS FOLLOWS: (Please note that new purchase thresholds of $10,000 or more have been enacted; however, contracts and change orders of a lesser amount still will appear).

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Annual cooperative supply contract with option to renew based on automatic annual Alliance renewals not to exceed five (5) years	Purchasing and Contracting	Home Depot	Varies by Item	•SSD - Public Works •General Fund/M&O - Various
B. Emergency service and preventative maintenance contract on three (3) UPS systems	I.C.S.	Nationwide Power Solutions	$10,992	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
C. Annual professional services contract with automatic renewal option for one (1) additional one (1) year term to provide drug treatment services for the Chatham County Superior Court Drug Court	Superior Court Judiciary	Recovery Place, Inc.	$450 per client per month	Drug Court Grant Funds
D. Change Order No. 2 to the annual contract to provide waste disposal services to include in the scope of services an increase in the dumpster size at Public Works and Park Services	Public Works and Park Services	Republic Waste Services, Inc.	$240	SSD - Public Works
E. Annual contract with automatic renewal option for four (4) additional one (1) year term to provide tree removal/cutting and trimming/ pruning at various locations throughout the County	Public Works and Park Services	•Primary: Dennis Waters Development Company •Secondary: Bartlett Tree Experts	Varies by service	SSD - Public Works and Park Services
F. Extend on a month to month basis the annual contract to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center	Public Works and Park Services	Sweet Dreams Ice Cream, Inc.	Same terms and conditions	Solid Waste Restricted Fund
G. Extend on a month to month basis the annual contract to provide pest control services	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	Ideal Pest Control	Same terms and conditions	•General Fund/M&O - Various Departments •SSD - Various Departments
H. Fitness equipment	Human Resources	Busy Body Gyms-to-Go	$18,650	Employee Health Fund

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Farrell moved to approve Items 5-A through 5-H, both inclusive. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM: X-5 A thru H
AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

THRU: **R.E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

FROM: **MICHAEL A. KAIGLER, DIRECTOR**
HUMAN RESOURCES & SERVICES

SUBJECT: **AWARD OF BIDS**

ITEM A

ISSUE: Request Board approval of an annual Cooperative Supply Contract with Home Depot, by participating in U.S. Communities' Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for County Departments. Contract renewals will be based on automatic annual Alliance renewals not to exceed (5) five years.

BACKGROUND: On 13 January 2006, the Board approved and authorized the Purchasing Agent to sign a "Participation Agreement" in the U.S. Communities' Cooperative Purchasing Alliance. The Government Purchasing Alliance (GPA) is a cooperative purchasing program which is nationally sponsored and founded by the National

Association of Counties (NACo), National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP), National League of Cities (NLC), and United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). Its purpose is savings through aggregate purchasing power, saving time and money, freeing resources for other public priorities, programs and services, and capturing the buying power of over 8,000 public entities.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Purchasing Agent engaged negotiations with Home Depot representatives and developed a rebate program for the County. A rebate of 1% will be given to the County based on sales of $25,000 to $100,000 and a rebate of 2% on sales of $100,001 and above. There are three (3) local stores operating in the County that departments may utilize.

2. This national contract with Home Depot was competitively solicited and meets the County's Purchasing Ordinance requirements. Contracts are bid by a "lead" public entity allowing local governments to "piggyback", saving time and resources. The lead agency for this contract was competitively awarded by Maricopa County, Arizona. These contracts enhance buying power by reducing public expenditures. The GPA contracts also eliminate some contract management costs because they are flexible, non-exclusive and have no fees.

3. Store account cards will enable County departments to purchase needed supplies and materials at discounts while earning annual rebates for the County. The contract provides the County with more than 15,000 items, for which there is potential savings of as much as 10%.

4. Controls will be developed and established by the Purchasing Agent for department personnel card authorizations, dollar limits, use and monitoring. Purchasing will be able to control and monitor and grant or stop purchases by on-line approvals and monitoring by each department account established.

5. Staff believes the use of the U.S. Communities GPA contracts will be a great benefit to the County not only because of pricing, but because they offer the advantage of reducing postage, advertising, bidding and other administrative costs while remaining local. Cooperative purchasing agreements are authorized and encouraged by the Chatham County Purchasing Ordinance and Procedures Manual as well as the Georgia Code.

FUNDING: General Fund/M & O - Various Departments
SSD - Various Departments

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of an annual Cooperative Supply Contract with Home Depot, by participating in U.S. Communities' Cooperative Purchasing Alliance for County Departments. Contract renewals will be based on automatic annual Alliance renewals not to exceed five (5) years.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve non-exclusive agreements in order to obtain reduced pricing, speed the procurement process, and reduce administrative workload.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM B

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the $10,992 emergency service and preventive maintenance contract on three (3) UPS systems from Nationwide Power Solution of Henderson, Nevada for the I.C.S. department.

BACKGROUND: This emergency service and preventive maintenance replaces an expired maintenance contract for the UPS at the police annex. The other two (2) units located at the Tag Office on Eisenhower Drive and Building Safety and Regulatory Services are not currently under a maintenance contract.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. I.C.S. recommends preventive maintenance contracts to prevent severe damage to county equipment and provide temporary power during power failures.

2. These contracts will provide preventive maintenance four (4) times each year to insure maximum uptime.

3. Uninterruptible power supplies absorb power surges, smooth out noisy power sources, provide power to equipment during line sags, and provide temporary power after a blackout.

4. Nationwide Power Solution is currently providing services to the county.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
(1001535 - 52.22001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of the $10,992 emergency service and preventive maintenance contract on three (3) UPS systems from Nationwide Power Solution of Henderson, Nevada for the I.C.S. department.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to approve the purchase of preventive maintenance contracts.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

I.C.S. APPROVAL_____
LEWIS LEONARD

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
GLORIA SAUGH

ITEM C

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award an annual professional service contract, with an automatic renewal option for one (1) additional one (1) year term, with Recovery Place, Inc. of Savannah, to provide Drug Treatment Services for the Chatham County Superior Court Drug Court.

BACKGROUND: A drug treatment service provider is required to provide drug treatment in an Intensive Outpatient Program setting to all clients who meet the minimum criteria established by and referred by the Chatham County Superior Court Drug Court Judge.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. This contract will be a continuation of current service, and Recovery Place has provided services for the treatment component for the Savannah-Chatham County Drug Court since 2001. Grant Funds have been acquired to continue these services.
2. The Superior Court Administrator negotiated with Recovery Place Inc., of Savannah, to establish a cost per client to receive treatment services, in four phases, consistent with an ASAM level II.I program. Services will include medical screening and urine drug screening appropriate to the phase of treatment.

3. Recovery Place of Savannah quoted the Superior Court Administrator a cost of $450 per client per month, based on a total number of 45 clients per month.

4. Staff believes the quote of $450 to be reasonable and fair.

FUNDING: Drug Court Grant Funds
(2502100 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval to award an annual professional service contract, with an automatic renewal option for one (1) additional one (1) year term, with Recovery Place, Inc. of Savannah, to provide Drug Treatment Services for the Chatham County Superior Court Drug Court.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to provide essential services required to maintain Drug Court Grant Funding.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
TOM DRANE

ITEM D

ISSUE: Request Board approval of Change Order 2, in the amount of $20 per month, to the annual contract with Republic Waste Services, Inc., to include in the scope of services an increase in the dumpster size at Public Works and Park Services.

BACKGROUND: On 12 May 2006, the Board approved a waste disposal services contract with Republic Waste Services, Inc.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Staff requested a price quotation from Republic Waste Service, Inc. to increase the dumpster size from six (6) yards to eight (8) yards for Public Works and Park Services.

2. Republic Waste quoted staff an additional fee of $20 per month for the increase in size. The cost will increase from $116 per month to $136 per month. An effective date of the increase is 01 October 2008.

3. Staff believes the additional cost of $20 per month to increase the dumpster size to be fair and reasonable.

4. Contract history is as follows:

Original Contract Amount (05-12-06)	$37,980/Year
Change Order 1 (12-07-07)	$ 1,272/Year
Change Order 2 (Pending)	$ 240/Year
Revised Contract Amount	$39,492/Year

FUNDING: SSD - Public Works
(2704100 - 52.21101)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of Change Order 2, in the amount of $20 per month, to the annual contract with Republic Waste Services, Inc., to include in the scope of services an increase in the dumpster size at Public Works and Park Services.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to issue Change Orders to essential service contracts to recognize changes in scope of services.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL
_____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM E

ISSUE: Request Board approval to award an annual contract, with automatic renewal options for four additional one year terms, to Dennis Waters Development Company of Allenhurst, Georgia and Bartlett Tree Experts of Savannah, Georgia to provide tree removal/cutting and trimming /pruning at various locations throughout the County.

BACKGROUND: On numerous occasions Public Works and Park Services has requested funding support for equipment and personnel to accomplish the task of tree removal/cutting and trimming/pruning. To date the request has not been supported. Neither has the Department had an annual contract in place for this type of service.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. For the last three (3) fiscal years $268,400 has been spent for tree removal/cutting and trimming/pruning services.

2. Considering the age of the tree canopy in the County and soil compaction/composition there will always be a need for such service. In addition, with our geographical location the expectation of hurricanes remains a threat during the season. Also, the possibility of tornadoes spinning off from severe storms

remains a threat as demonstrated this calendar year. Such events will generate downed limbs, hanging limbs, fallen trees or trees that will need to be removed for safety reasons.

3. Bids were publicly advertised and mailed to four (4) firms, and publicly opened 2 October 2008. The following firms submitted bids. Please see the attached matrix on pages 11-12, for details of the rates for specified services.

   Dennis Water Development Company
   Allenhurst, GA

   Bartlett Tree Experts
   Savannah, GA

4. On 27 March 1998, the Board approved a "local preference" policy which states, when a firm from outside Chatham County submits the "lowest bid" the policy allows the lowest local vendor to match the "lowest" bid. If the local firm does match the "lowest" bid, the local firm is awarded the purchase. Dennis Waters Development Company, a non-Chatham County firm offered the "lowest low" bid. Bartlett Tree Experts, a Chatham County firm, was asked if they would match the outside firms' bid. Bartlett Tree Experts declined the offer to match the "lowest" bid.

5. Contract specifications called for a primary and a secondary contractor. The secondary contractor is used if, for any reason, the primary contractor is unable to respond promptly to an emergency requirement.

6. Staff recommends that the contract be awarded as follows:

   Primary Contractor: Dennis Water Development Company
   Allenhurst, GA

   Secondary Contractor: Bartlett Tree Experts
   Savannah, GA

FUNDING: SSD-Public Works
(2704100 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval to award an annual contract, with automatic renewal options for four additional one year terms, to Dennis Waters Development Company of Allenhurst, Georgia and Bartlett Tree Experts of Savannah, Georgia to provide tree removal/cutting and trimming /pruning at various locations throughout the County.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to award contracts to the low responsive, responsible bidder.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
RUSHEDA ADESHINA

ITEM F

ISSUE: Request Board approval of an amendment to extend on a month to month basis, the annual contract with Sweet Dreams Ice Cream, Inc. to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center.

BACKGROUND: On 25 October 2002 the Board approved the award of an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Riptide Services Inc. to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. On 24 August 2007 the Board approved a one (1) year extension to the contact and a corporate name change from Riptide Services, Inc. to Sweet Dreams Ice Cream, Inc.

2. Staff is currently preparing a scope of work for the preparation of a bid. The scope of work will expand to include all three (3) of the County owned Drop Off Centers and encompass an emphasis of recycling. Sweet Dreams has agreed to the month

to month basis extension, with all terms and conditions remaining the same. No additional funding is required for the extension.

FUNDING: Solid Waste Restricted
(5404510 - 52.39001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of an amendment to extend on a month to month basis, the annual contract with Sweet Dreams Ice Cream, Inc. to provide attendant services at the Wilmington Island Drop Off Center.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to amend contracts that require any changes made to the name, terms, and conditions and also consistent with Board policy to extend contracts when it is in the best interest of the County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
CHRIS MORRIS

ITEM G

ISSUE: Request Board approval of an amendment to extend on a month to month basis, the annual contract with Ideal Pest Control, Inc. of Savannah, to provide pest control services for various departments and agencies of Chatham County.

BACKGROUND: On 7 November 2003, the Board approved the award of an annual contract with automatic renewal options for four (4) additional one (1) year terms to Ideal Pest Control, Inc. to provide pest control services for various departments and agencies of Chatham County.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The current contract for pest control services will expire on 7 November 2008. Staff has modified the scope of work to reflect changes in sites, and publicly advertised the solicitation. The bid opening is scheduled for 4 November 2008. Staff plans to present their recommendation to the Board at the 21 November 2008 meeting.

2. Ideal Pest has agreed to the month to month basis extension, with all terms and conditions remaining the same. No additional funding is required for the extension.

FUNDING: General Fund/M&O - Various
SSD - Various

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Request Board approval of an amendment to extend on a month to month basis, the annual contract with Ideal Pest Control, Inc. of Savannah, to provide pest control services for various departments and agencies of Chatham County.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: It is consistent with Board policy to amend contracts that require any changes made to the name, terms, and conditions and also consistent with Board policy to extend contracts when it is in the best interest of the County.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
READ DEHAVEN

ITEM H

ISSUE: Request Board approval of the $18,650 purchase of workout equipment from Busy Body Gyms-to-Go for use by the Chatham County employees at the Aquatic Center.

BACKGROUND: The goal of the Chatham County Employee Wellness Program is to improve the health of Chatham County employees through education, health risk assessments, disease prevention, and disease management programs. Currently,

Chatham County employees have an opportunity to participate in discounted gym memberships, lunch and learn sessions, free flu vaccinations, Weight Watchers onsite and the Chatham County Cheetah Paws Walking Program. As a part of the Employee Wellness Program, staff recommended expanding programs to the Chatham County Aquatic Center.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. The Board of Commissioners adopted a formal Chatham County Wellness Policy on 3 October 2008. This Wellness Policy supports the continued efforts of the Board of Commissioners to foster a healthy environment for its employees.

2. There are a number of employers in the Savannah area who offer incentives to employees who participate in discounted gym memberships. Chatham County has established corporate memberships with the following local gyms and fitness centers: 24-Hour Family Fitness, Anderson-Cohen Weigh Lifting Center, Candler Wellness Center, Chatham County Aquatic Center, Curves, the Downtown Athletic Club, Fitness One, Hourglass, and the YMCA. During the 22 February 2008 Board meeting, the Board approved a $15.00 monthly contribution for employees who participate in Chatham County's Corporate Gym Membership Program.

3. As a part of the Employee Wellness Program, staff recommended expanding the programs to the Chatham County Aquatic Center to offer the use of onsite equipment for employees. This recommendation was approved by the Board at the 22 February 2008 meeting.

4. The addition of exercise equipment to the Aquatic Center should increase the utilization by employees. Human Resources staff will work with the Aquatic Center staff to review the rate structure for employee usage.

5. Staff received quotes for providing equipment from two firms.

Item	Busy Body Gyms-to-Go	Empi
Four (4) Treadmill	$ 9,000	$ 7,126
Two (2) Elliptical	$ 4,600	$ 6,038
Three (3) Stationery Bikes	$ 3,750	$ 5,840
Delivery charges	$ 1,300	$ 1,300
	$18,650	$20,304

FUNDING: Employee Health Fund
(6509130 - 54.25001)

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Board approval of the $18,650 purchase of workout equipment from Busy Body Gyms-to-Go for use by the Chatham County employees at the Aquatic Center.

2. Provide staff other direction.

POLICY ANALYSIS: As a policy the Board continues to provide a healthy environment to enable productive employees. The Board has already shown support of wellness initiatives by approving the Wellness Program and the adoption of the Wellness Policy. As our employees are our most valuable asset and spend at least one-third of their day at work, approval of onsite equipment at the Aquatic Center will be another way in which the Board supports a healthy environment for its employees.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends approval of Alternative 1.

BUDGET APPROVAL_____
READ DEHAVEN

PREPARED BY _____
PURCHASING AGENT

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XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
On first reading, presentation by MPC staff and discussion only by Commissioners will be heard.
Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

1. THE PETITIONER PHILLIP MCCORKLE, (AGENT FOR JOE SIKES OWNER) IS REQUESTING TO REZONE 5410 GEORGIA HIGHWAY 21 FROM A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO AN I-H (HEAVY INDUSTRIAL) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-080825-00103-1
[DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Liakakis read this item into the record as the first reading.

AGENDA ITEM: XI-1
AGENDA DATE: October 17, 2008

TO: **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

THRU: **R. E. ABOLT, COUNTY MANAGER**

FROM: **THOMAS L. THOMSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

LEGAL NOTICE/AGENDA HEADING:

The petitioner Phillip McCorkle (Agent for Joe Sikes Owner), is requesting to rezone 5410 Georgia Highway 21 from a P-B-C (Planned Community Business) classification to an I-H (Heavy Industrial) classification. The MPC recommends approval.
MPC File No. Z-080825-00103-1

ISSUE: At issue is a request to rezone approximately 3.196 acres of land from an existing P-B-C (Planned Community Business) classification to an I-H (Heavy Industrial) classification.

BACKGROUND: The petitioner is seeking to rezone a portion of a larger tract of land to allow the construction and operation of industrial uses on site. The subject tract of land contains approximately 5.48 acres and is currently zoned for intense commercial usage. From this larger tract, the petitioner is seeking to rezone an area of approximately 3.20 acres to allow for industrial development on site. The remainder of the site will remain as currently zoned.

The larger parent parcel was the subject of an approved rezoning from I-H to the existing P-B-C in October 1999. Although the frontage along Highway 21 has developed commercially, the rear portion of the property has not developed, and is unlikely to develop commercially given its lack of visibility to Highway 21.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. **Public Notice:** As required by Ordinance, notice of the proposed rezoning was sent to all property owners within 200 feet of the subject (larger) parcel, and postings were placed on the property. No known neighborhood association exists in the area.

2. **Existing Development Pattern:**

As indicated on the attached zoning map, most of the land in the immediate vicinity of the subject parcel is zoned for industrial use. Properties that front Highway 21 have mostly developed, but significant tracts of vacant land exist, particularly to the east of the subject site.

The land uses and zoning districts surrounding the subject property include:

Location	Land Use	Zoning
North	Undeveloped	I-H
East	Industrial	I-H
South	Undeveloped (Wetland)	I-H
West	Undeveloped and Commercial	P-B-C

3. **Existing P-B-C (Planned Community Business) Zoning District:**

a. ***Intent of the P-B-C District:*** The intent of the B-C district is to "…provide community shopping facilities consisting of a wide variety of sales and service facilities at locations that will be accessible to a market area containing from 35,000 to 70,000 people."

b. ***Intent of the P District:*** The purpose of the P District is to "…provide areas within which comprehensive plans shall be prepared for review by the MPC or MPC staff in order to secure an orderly development pattern."

c. ***Allowed Uses:*** The uses allowed in the P-B-C district appear in the attached chart.

d. ***Development Standards:*** The development standards for the P-B-C district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

4. **Proposed I-H (Heavy Industrial) Zoning District:**

a. ***Intent of the I-H District:*** The purpose of the I-H district is to "…create and protect areas in which industries, which are not permitted in other districts, can be permitted."

b. ***Allowed Uses:*** The uses allowed in the I-H district appear in the attached chart.

c. ***Development Standards:*** The development standards for the I-H district appear in the attached table (Table 1).

5. **Land Use Element:** The Chatham County - Savannah Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map designates the subject property for industrial development.

6. **Transportation Network:** Access to the site is from Highway 21 to the west and Bourne Avenue (Highway 307) to the north. Both roads are classified as major arterials. Transit service is available via CAT Route 2 (West Chatham) along Highway 21.

7. **Traffic Impacts:** No additional traffic impacts would be expected as a result of the proposed rezoning. The highest traffic generator allowed in both the existing and proposed districts is a service station. In all likelihood, the amount of traffic generated from an industrial use would be less than that generated by a commercial development. No specific traffic impact analysis is needed.

8. **Public Services and Facilities:** Police protection is provided by the Metropolitan Police Department. Water, sanitary sewer, and fire protection services are provided by Garden City.

9. Though no specific use has been identified at this time, it is the intent of the petitioner to market the site for industrial use consistent with the comprehensive plan and with developments existing or planned in the area. Located in close proximity to the Georgia Ports Authority terminal on the Savannah River, the site, if rezoned, will retain development rights of the intense commercial uses allowed under the existing zoning, and will allow expanded development opportunities afforded by the industrial classification.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

1. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would create traffic volumes, noise level, odor, airborne particulate matter, visual blight, reduce light or increased density of development that would adversely impact the livability or quality of life in the surrounding neighborhood?

   Yes ___ No X__

2. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would adversely impact adjacent and nearby properties by rendering such properties less desirable and therefore less marketable for the type of development permitted under the current zoning?

   Yes ___ No X

3. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate a type or mix of vehicular traffic on a street or highway that is incompatible with the type of land use development along such street or highway?

   Yes ___ No X__

4. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses that would generate greater traffic volumes at vehicular access points and cross streets than is generated by uses permitted under the current zoning district to the detriment of maintaining

acceptable or current volume capacity (V/C) ratio for the streets that provide vehicular access to the proposed zoning district and adjacent and nearby properties?

Yes ___ No X

5. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would require a greater level of public services such as drainage facilities, utilities, or safety services above that required for uses permitted under the current zoning district such that the provision of these services will create financial burden to the public?

Yes ___ No X

6. Will the proposed zoning district permit uses or scale of development that would adversely impact the improvement or development of adjacent and nearby properties in accordance with existing zoning regulations and development controls deemed necessary to maintain the stability and livability of the surrounding neighborhood?

Yes ___ No X

7. Will the proposed zoning district permit development that is inconsistent with the comprehensive land use plan?

Yes ___ No X

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Approve the petitioner's request to rezone the property from a P-B-C classification to an I-H classification.

2. Deny the petitioner's request.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The requested rezoning is consistent with the designation depicted on the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) of the Comprehensive Plan and is ideally suited for the proposed classification. The rezoning proposed will be placed on a specific area of a larger tract of land. The proposed zoning will not have a detrimental impact on area traffic and/or existing and proposed land uses. The proposed zoning restores the industrial classification which existed on the site several years ago.

RECOMMENDATION: The MPC and Director of Building Safety and Regulatory Services recommend APPROVAL of the request to rezone the subject property from a P-B-C classification to an I-H classification.

PREPARED BY: Jim Hansen, AICP, Director
Development Services

September 16, 2008

Gregori Anderson, Director
BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES

Table 1: Comparison of Development Standards for the Existing P-B-C and Proposed I-H Zoning Districts

	P-B-C District	I-H District
Minimum Lot Area	None	None
Minimum Lot Width	None	None
Front Yard Setback	85 feet from centerline of arterial	85 feet from centerline of arterial
Minimum Side Yard Setback	None	None

Minimum Rear Yard Setback	None	40 feet
Maximum Height	None	None
Maximum Building Coverage	None	None
Maximum Density	N/A	N/A

DATE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

TO: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSION

FROM METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: MPC ZONING RECOMMENDATION

PETITION REFERENCED:

Phillip McCorkle, Agent
Joe Sikes, Lee Sikes and Joseph Sikes, Owners
5410 Georgia Highway 21
MPC File No. Z-080825-00103-1

MPC ACTION: **Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from P-B-C classification to an I-H classification.**

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION: **Approval of the request to rezone the subject property from P-B-C classification to an I-H classification.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: 9 + Chairman

Jon Todd, Chairman
Susan Myers, Treasurer
Douglas Bean
Stephen R. Lufburrow
Lacy Manigault
Shedrick Coleman, Secretary
Michael Brown
David Hoover
Timothy Mackey
Adam Ragsdale

VOTING FOR MOTION	VOTING AGAINST MOTION	*ABSENT OR **FAILING TO VOTE
Jon Todd		*Robert Ray
Shedrick Coleman		*Russ Abolt
Susan Myers		*Ben Farmer
Douglas Bean		
Michael Brown		
David Hoover		
Stephen Lufburrow		
Lacy Manigault		
Timothy Mackey		
Adam Ragsdale		

FOR APPROVAL: 10 **FOR DENIAL: 0** **ABSTAINING: 0**

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Thomson
Executive Director

/cbm

Enclosure

Petition of Phillip McCorkle, Agent

MPC File No. Z-080825-00103-1

MPC recommends that the following described property be rezoned from its present P-B-C (Planned Community Business) to an I-H (Heavy Industrial) zoning classification.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Starting at a point located on the centerline of Hwy 21 approximately 521 feet south of its intersection with the centerline of Bourne Avenue, thence proceeding easterly along a line North 75 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds East for a distance of approximately 526 feet to a point, said point being the point of beginning; thence proceeding southerly along a line South 14 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds East a distance of approximately 498 feet to a point, thence easterly along a line North 77 degrees 29 minutes 51 seconds East for a distance of approximately 304 feet to a point, thence northerly along a line North 16 degrees 35 minutes 14 seconds West a distance of approximately 504 feet to a point, thence southwesterly along a line South 75 degrees 15 minutes 23 seconds West a distance of approximately 378 feet back to the point of beginning.

The property is further identified by the Property Identification Number as follows:

P.I.N 1-0818 -01-019 part

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

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2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN $2,500 AND $9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A status report was attached for review.

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3. DISCUSSION REGARDING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2009.

County Manager Abolt said, you want to spend your time now before you go into Executive Session, turning the agenda over to Mr. Hughes so that you as a Commission can give Mr. Hughes and the staff direction as to your legislative priorities for 2009. Lee [Hughes].

Mr. Lee Hughes said, good morning. We talked in the Green Room a little bit about Draft 3 that each of you have a copy of for legislative priorities for the 2009 Session, which will be here before we know it.

Commissioner Shay asked, where is that in the book since I wasn't in the Green Room earlier? County Manager Abolt said, it's Tab 3 after Information Items. Also, current information there's more information that Lee [Hughes] has distributed.

Mr. Hughes said, which we can talk about. A couple of housekeeping items. First of all, we were talking about having community hearings — excuse me, talking about having our annual legislative luncheon with the Legislative Delegation, we had aimed for November 7th. Unfortunately, that is the date that the Legislative Delegation has scheduled their community hearings, so we're unable to do it on that date. I've asked them if the 21st would work and they are going to schedule that. Of course, we can't ensure that all of the members of the Legislative Delegation will

be available on that date, but that is a regularly scheduled County Commission meeting and we would adjourn — you would adjourn your meeting and we would have lunch and go over this agenda or whatever we come up with on that date.

Mr. Hughes said, I would also remind you that what you have in front of you is a draft. We have a couple of months before the session starts and then after the session starts, we can revise it then as well. This is a working draft that we can make changes to both now and in the coming months. We want to keep this list as — smaller enough to be manageable, so we have worked hard to not add too many items at this point. We came in this morning with six and at the suggestion of a couple of the Commissioners we've added a couple for consideration, and the one that's up on your screen is listed as Draft 4, and if you look at number seven and number eight, those are the two we discussed this morning adding back to the agenda the request for higher reimbursement rate for prisoners in the County Detention Center. I believe, Mr. Chairman, you might correct me on this, I believe that is up to $22 a day. It had been $20 a day. At various times we've had it as high as $25 approved by the Legislature, vetoed by the Governor, et cetera. It costs about $50 a day. We're all familiar with that. We'd like to see that higher. It will be a tougher year than even a normal year to get that raised this year, but there is some merit to the idea of keeping this on our agenda because it is still an important issue for the County.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd like to on seven, I'd like us to give some thought to rewording that, request, you know, it sounds like we're asking for brand new money we might not be entitled to. Could we put something in there like we request actual cost reimbursement? We're not asking for something we're not entitled to. There's an actual per day cost for a prisoner and —. Mr. Hughes said, I understand. How about if we said something to the effect of request a higher reimbursement rate approaching the actual cost, and we can, if you want, also we've talked about asking for a specific —. Commissioner Gellatly said, as long as actual cost is in there because we're not asking for anything that we're not entitled to. Mr. Hughes said, I'll work with staff, if that's alright with you, to reword that.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Lee [Hughes], item two on here says monitor development of new Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies. What does that mean to monitor it and what at this point do we suppose that the Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies, what policies are on the table? Mr. Hughes said, first of all, the reason I put monitor in it is we don't know whether we'll like the idea that they come out with or not, and we don't as a County don't do a lot of monitoring. We monitor and then we take an action one way or the other, and I like that about this Commission and the direction that we take.

County Manager Abolt said, I think, if I may, Lee, much of this will come from the Chairman and his leadership with the most influential committee of ACCG, transportation and that kind of development.

Mr. Hughes said, to speak to your other question, they're talking about making constitutional changes to allow for regional sales taxes that are devoted strictly to transportation and they are actually talking, they've had meeting just this week where they are getting close to the proposals that they would then take to the Legislature. Actually having different proposals for the Atlanta area than they do for the rest of the State. You know, at one point they were to be under the structure of the RDCs. At one point they talked about under Congressional Districts, sometimes they talk multi-county, et cetera. So I can't tell you what it will end up being and that's why we use the word monitor there because we want to wait and see what they have and then get direction from y'all on what position we want to take.

Commissioner Shay said, well, let me express my concern then, and I'm not sure whether it falls under item number two, but I like the fact that it's all the way up there at number two, so I hope it fits in. I had a chance last night to go to a movie and attend a really good discussion afterwards that was at the Telfair and it was sponsored by the Telfair and Local Chapter of A Hundred Black Men, and it was a movie that was about how there is no more direct correlation between citizens health and even their life expectancy than there economic status, you know, and whether we think it breaks along cultural or ethnic lines the fact that poor people don't eat as well and don't have access to the kinds of facilities that people who are more affluent do has a great determination on whether not they can get along in the world. And it has a very big impact then on us as a County Commission because of the issue with the uninsured under-served and otherwise unpaid for visits to the hospitals, especially the emergency rooms and so forth. That doesn't sound like it's about transportation, but one of the most determinative factors in people's ability to be upwardly mobile economically is to have access to transportation. If this Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policy is just going to be about more roads and more ways for those of us who are fortunate enough to have access to private automobiles and can afford the gas costs to move them around, then I think we're missing something big, and I know this will probably be a high priority on CAT's agenda, but I think it also very, very deeply affects us up here as we look at dealing with the consequences of the fact that close to 30% of all the people that live in Chatham County live at or below the poverty level. In this Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policy, can we also include the fact that we need to have a much greater level of attention from the State of Georgia in the funding and support for mass transit and the kinds of alternatives that people need so that they don't have to have their own private automobile and have to be able to afford gasoline in order to be able to reach health care or work anything else for that matter.

Mr. Hughes said, that's an excellent question. First of all, the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation had a public hearing about a month ago. Several people in the room attended that. There was some discussion about that very issue. The Director of CAT was there and raised the issue of transit, was the word that he used for it, with the Commissioner. She assured him that that was to be part of the picture. I think you're right that that's something that should be watched to make sure that it gets adequate play and whatever the language is. If the Commission directed me, we can change the language on this item to support whenever we see the language of the legislation to support new transportation and transit infrastructure policy. We'll have opportunities between now and the session to make that decision.

Commissioner Shay said, yeah, if it could just say monitor development of new Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies and those affecting public transit or mass transit or words to that effect. I just somehow or another, you know, the issues that surround having alternatives for people, especially working poor, to private automobiles, you know,

because the discussion always ends up being about Atlanta, let's be — that's why they're going to make a new rule that says everybody else gets one set of rules and Atlanta gets another set of rules. Well, Atlanta is designed so that if you don't own a car there, you're just — I can't use the word in front of the Youth Commission — but, you know, the — so that ends up driving all the rules for the rest of the State of Georgia, I'm sure they have big mass transit needs there, but they've got it. You know, they've got MARTA, they've got a huge subsidy in order to build their public transit infrastructure and get a great kick off. I'd like to make sure that we don't lose that issue in our discussion on an on-going basis if the Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policy ends up being just that we're on our own, you know, which I suspect that's what it's going to be, which is basically you guys, you know, we'll make a set of rules for Atlanta and then you guys can figure out your own stuff, how to pay for it yourself. I think we're missing at least one important aspect of what we would expect from the State. The State of Georgia is one of only two states in the United States which does not have a program for being able to assist in local government's operating transit systems.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, Lee, could you explain to me number four, particularly the MPDES permit. Mr. Hughes said, I had that question earlier and I've used that language for so many years I had to look up exactly what it stands for. The National Pollution Discharge Eliminaton System. I wish that Al Bungard was here to help me explain this. This has to do with permits that the County has to get with various construction projects and the State reimburses them at a certain level, which won't come as a shock to any of the Commissioners, is inadequate to cover the County's cost, and —.

County Attorney Hart said, this is another one of those opportunities that we received where the State basically handed off the regulatory to us but didn't hand off the money.

Mr. Hughes said, an underfunded mandate. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Okay.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, does number two include basically — when you say monitor development of a new Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies, does that include basically just trying to get the —. Sorry. Thank you. Where on number two it says monitor the development of a new Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies, does that basically include trying to obtain the monies that the DOT told us we would receive on various road projects that due to the economic status of the State right now may be in jeopardy of us actually receiving those monies, or is this talking about just new projects?

Mr. Hughes said, when I wrote it this way, Commissioner, what I was intending to focus on was they're going to come up with new ways to fund transportation, and beyond the idea of regional sales taxes, there is also — there will be proposals to restructure the Department of Transportation to allow the Governor, the Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House to appoint the members of the Board rather than the Legislature, and that's a very significant change. It will be a big political battle. So those are more policy issues rather than direct funding issues, and we can talk about, you know, ways that we can be active with the Department and seeking funding for various specific projects, but that's not something — this is for the Legislative Agenda and the Legislature doesn't determine where those monies go. That's the Department of Transportation Board and staff, so that's why that's not on this agenda. Does that make sense?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it makes — it makes sense, but it's just —. Mr. Hughes said, it doesn't make it less frustrating, I know. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I mean, because I think we would have a better chance of receiving monies that we were previously promised we would receive than receiving new monies, if that makes any sense. New revenues for the area, so —. Mr. Hughes said, well, let me —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I don't think we've — we probably have not provided you with a, you know, because we haven't talked about it, but we need to come up with a clear list from Engineering of what actually has been promised and what is possibly in jeopardy where we would all know when we talk to our State leaders an amount that, you know, we need to at least receive to finish the projects we told them we'd try to do. Mr. Hughes said, and to that issue, some of the talk of the proposals have included that since six of the Congressional Districts in the State touch the Atlanta area, that the Atlanta area should get a disproportionate share of DOT revenue. Of course, those of us down here in God's country don't like that kind of talk, and that's why I mention monitor development of these policies because we need to make sure that it is not Atlanta centric and that it is fair to the whole State. So, Commissioner Kicklighter, that's to say that no this is not about specific items, but it is about making sure that the policies have some equity so we don't have those kind of problems in the future.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, in other words, one of their policies may be, which I think it should be, like toll booths on highways or whatever. Mr. Hughes said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so — alright, that's good because I think that could definitely benefit us if we could do that on some of the roads. Mr. Hughes said, offer that through public/private partnerships.

Mr. Hughes said, let me also encourage y'all to think about this list. I would like direction from y'all not only on what's on here, but where it is on the list. I don't want to say I threw it down here, but I kind of threw it down here in this order, so if you have suggestions about some of these that are more important than others of where to put it, I do think the number one item should be the number one item. That's a this year huge dollar amount issue, but if you have others that you'd like to move up or down, please direct me.

Commissioner Gellatly said, you might want to consider moving seven up to number two. Isn't that the biggest money? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I —. Commissioner Gellatly asked, most likely owed to us?

Chairman Liakakis said, the only thing about that, Dave [Gellatly], I spent two days last week, Thursday and Friday, a part of the day Friday in Atlanta giving my report. I head up the number one committee for the 159 counties for Transportation and Economic Development, and one of the things that was brought to my attention by a couple of Legislators that it could be as much as two billion shortfall in the income that the State does and what it — the other

things for example, other items which would include the prisoners reimbursement for us in this area and others like that would be very unlikely because of the tightness of the budget. The Governor's people have put things together. They've had some meetings now with State Senators and State Representatives have come there for certain meetings to put things together, that will increase here in the next several weeks on that, but this transportation thing right now, one of the things so that you'll know this, Patrick [Shay], is on the transit system I brought that up last week. I had to do three reports on Thursday and then bring before a voting group on Friday the items about the transportation funding, and that's a situation that we have that we really and truly need the State to come in for our transit system because as we know our public transit system right now is lacking the support from the State and, hopefully, that some encouragement will be there, we'll have more Legislators on board to help us with that because this will be statewide, and one of the things that there was talk is that the Governor will veto again because we will not only have to pay for what they owe Chatham County on the prisoners, but also on a statewide basis for the 159 counties, which could be in hundreds of millions of dollars, and they are not going to have it, especially at this tight situation. When we did have the proposal that Helen [Stone] has talked about and I had talked about and other Commissioners and all about this reimbursement on that and we only got a few amount of dollars. As soon as it got the Governor's desk he immediately vetoed it, and so finally after working through the Legislators we were able to get $2. Most of the people don't know this, the State of Georgia owes Chatham County $22 million in unfunded jail prisoners that they had the responsibility for. That's what the State of Georgia owes Chatham County, $22 million as of a month ago. This is a terrible figure. It's one of those unfunded mandated things that they have placed on the burden of our citizens here in Chatham County plus around the State of Georgia. So I'm just relaying to you —.

Commissioner Gellatly said, well, move it up to number three, Pete [Liakakis]. Chairman Liakakis said, well, no, we can move it to two in there, but I'm just letting you know —. Commissioner Gellatly said, leaving it down to seven it sounds like we're not interested in it anymore, you know. Chairman Liakakis said, yeah.

Chairman Liakakis said, no, any way that y'all want to vote on it. Dean [Kicklighter] and then Patrick [Shay].

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I don't know for a fact but I assume that the Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center would fall under the City of Savannah's leadership under this Police Department, merged Police department, so in my opinion Savannah should actually take the lead and their lobbyist should take the majority of the — and the bulk of the work load to lobby for this type of facility, and I don't have a problem personally with Mr. Hughes assisting their lobbyist, but I don't believe that the bulk of his workload at all should be guided in this direction. He should be there to assist Savannah's lobbyist if needed, but not in any other capacity.

Mr. Hughes said, he's referring to item number six.

Commissioner Farrell said, well, that's a —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the one that Dave Gellatly said to move up, I believe. Mr. Hughes said, no, he was —.

Chairman Liakakis said, no, he was talking about the reimbursement for the prisoners. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, I thought he was — it was six. Chairman Liakakis said, — to move that up. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, that one definitely high on there, but I think basically you could almost take everything off of here and just put one thing is for the State to pay for everything they said they would pay for, and that's it. That covers everything on there pretty much and if they would just do the ir job and fund it, we'd be okay.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, they don't work like that, Dean [Kicklighter]. I've been up there numerous times since last year and this year heading up that committee and meeting with — I met with some 49 State Senators and State Representatives other than our own, you know, lobbying hard for different issues and all and especially for economic development, and they — if you just say that, then they can just take one item, but you need to break it down about the specific items, and Lee [Hughes] can tell you that. Patrick [Shay] and then Helen [Stone].

Commissioner Shay said, an item that's currently listed as number three is inartfully worded, and let me explain to you why. We're not really asking for political subdivisions to be exempted from the entire Coastal Marshlands Protection Act. Mr. Hughes said, that's a good point. Commissioner Shay said, we're being asked to exempt from certain provisions, and the provisions are fairly limited. When it goes out in this form, then the people that have worked tirelessly over the last 20 years to get the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act to be as strong as it is today, I'm sure they would like for it to be stronger, they panic when they see that. So if we could — fine, we want to revise certain provisions, and it might not even hurt to describe that. We're really just talking about, you know, where we have to do with rights of way and those kind of things. Somebody could read that and they could say, well Chatham County could decide that they want to put, you know —. Mr. Hughes said, pave the marsh. Commissioner Shay said, exactly. Mr. Hughes said, that's a very good point. Commissioner Shay said, whether they pave it or put a building over it or anything else, I mean, there are thousands of provisions in the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act that we do not want to be exempted from. Mr. Hughes said, you're right, and you're right that on this sheet that needs to be clarified and I will do that. Commissioner Shay said, when this gets published, you see, the thing is there are people that are looking at this right now, if they're on television looking at this — I don't know whether this is on the screen for us or them, but if it were printed in the paper, for example, then —. Mr. Hughes said, we'll make sure that we say from —. Commissioner Shay said, I'm going to get 150 telephone calls. Mr. Hughes said, I will tell you that we always have a position paper with it, and the position paper we actually have draft legislation that shows the limitations of what we're asking for. It is a very small part of the Act. Commissioner Shay said, well, I can just call forward to you. Mr. Hughes said, no. Commissioner Shay said, okay, well, then let's put something in there that says certain provisions.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Stone.

Commissioner Stone said, thank you. I realize that item number seven was added this morning and that's where it is, but this Commission has worked very hard on this per diem issue and, Lee, I know you've worked very hard on it as well, and $2, even though that's a little bit of movement, to me the most difficult part of this, and I agree that it should be a little further up and I also understand that we might not stand a chance of getting the money, but the thing that

is the hardest for me to understand is that they pay private jails the full amount that it costs to house them, but — and we're fulfilling the same role and we're not getting paid half of what it costs to keep the prisoners in there.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, legal question. Can our new facility that we're building for the Sheriff become a private jail facility in which we hire him to run? Commissioner Shay said, not if we pay for it with SPLOST.

Mr. Hughes said, Mr. Chairman, if I can speak to what Commissioner Stone is talking about, about number seven.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and receive reimbursement —.

Chairman Liakakis said, wait a minute. Let Helen [Stone] and then have the attorney to answer that. Go ahead with Helen [Stone].

Mr. Hughes said just to frame that issue, and this is a philosophical question for the Commission to decide on, if you put — number seven is a statewide issue. They can't reimburse only Chatham County at a higher rate. They've got to reimburse every county in the State. So they have projections of what each one dollar in increase reimbursement means to the State budget. Commissioner Stone remembers that number as $100 million per dollar. Commissioner Stone said, I remember it as a million dollars per dollar. Mr. Hughes said, a million dollars per dollar. Commissioner Stone said, yes. Mr. Hughes said, if you talk about raising it $10 or $20 more, then extrapolate that out to what it means on the total budget. In a budget year like this, it means it's not likely they're going to increase it significantly or at all. That said, we're sending a message if it's still on our list that it's still important to us.

Commissioner Stone said, and I think that's — that is why I want it to say on the list. I do not want them to think that we've dropped it and therefore it will never be discussed again and it will never come up again, and I think that it's an ongoing problem and I think it's very unfair to the local taxpayers to have to pick up a burden that actually belongs to the State and especially if they're willing to pay private jails the full amount. It just doesn't make any sense, and I think that it henceforward until some of this money or all of this money is recouped, it should stay on the list. Mr. Hughes said, well listen, whether or not we're going to get it or not, it's a very reasonable request that I'm happy to carry to the Legislature again. I just need direction from y'all where to put it on the list.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, I'll go down the list in just a minute. Jon [Hart], will you answer Dean's question.

County Attorney Hart said, sure. I think to a large extent the question's already been answered by Commissioner Shay. We're spending a hundred million dollars on public fund from SPLOST so the facility itself is going to have to remain a public facility. Okay? You add to that the fact that the Sheriff by law is charged with maintaining the jail, and by law he must accept every prisoner presented and by law it's actually a misdemeanor if he refuses to accept a prisoner. So how you take something that's mandated by a public official to run and a facility that's bought by SPLOST funds and turn it into a private facility, I really don't see a practical way of doing it. That does not mean that at some point in the future if this facility comes on line and we have excess capacity, hopefully, if the County had sufficient stable excess capacity, that you couldn't enter into an agreement with the State that our excess capacity would be used to house State prisoners or for that matter prisoners from other counties that had an overflow, and then you could negotiate a per diem rate there. Unfortunately, based on the things I'm hearing is that, you know, we're adding a substantial addition to this facility, but we're also adding criminals at a substantial rate also.

Chairman Liakakis said, let me answer his, too, and I'll call on you in a second, Harris [Odell]. The way that it's set up now about the private operation, the State of Georgia has a private organization that does this in other parts of the State, Dean [Kicklighter], and they build the facility and then the State pays them for the prisoners that are in there, so it's a State facility as opposed to like a County facility. That's the way basically it is set up now.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, but also or in addition, throughout the country don't they now have as a business private development firms that will come in — County Attorney Hart said, oh yes, sure. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — and build a facility and operate it and they're paid. County Attorney Hart said, oh, absolutely. That's — apparently, really the current trend and what you're seeing is that you go out and you get some private equity groups to build the facility and then they're guaranteed a rate of return on the facility and then there's a management agreement on the side with some company that specializes in that to run the facility, and, you know, some of them work quite well, save a lot of money. Some of them are miserable failures.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, could we not once the building was completed possibly look at selling the facility to a private company and the Sheriff contracting with them to manage that part where it would all balance and we would be —, in other words, we would totally receive what we're supposed to? County Attorney Hart said, I don't want to give a concrete answer on that without doing a tremendous amount of research, but I think it would be extremely difficult to take a hundred million dollar facility addition, that has been voted on in a public referendum that that's what the community wants and the community has raised taxes for and then turn around and sell to a private third party. I think it would be open to taxpayer challenge all over the place and probably get —.

Commissioner Odell said, I think we'd get indicted. I think we as a Commission would be indicted. We would be on CNN hiding our faces from the camera if we did that. Let's make the distinction. The private operators who operate jails are post-convictions. Those people have already been convicted and they take them from all over the area and bring them to a particular location. Our jail is limited to Chatham County. We don't take Effingham County pre-detainees in. That's why the State makes the difference, and I'm not saying that it's a necessary difference, but you're talking about folks who are waiting to be sentenced, as compared to those, who for the most part our facility is, those who are waiting to be sentenced, and these holding private operators are places where its already been convicted. My personal opinion is that we can beat this dead horse to death. It is not going — we're not going to receive substantial funding from number seven this year, and the reason we're not is that we're down in the State two billion dollars. If they've not done it when they've had a surplus, I don't think they're going to do it when they have a shortfall. We can leave it on the list, and I think we should leave it on the list and I think the position it's in is a right position because it says we're still thinking about it and we're concerned about it, it's not gone away, but let's get the things that we can

get, let's do those at the top. Number one is kind of an urgent thing. We've really got to do that, folks. It's not —, and the rest are — the issue that Pat Shay brought up, we don't want to be on the outside looking in if they grant some kind of funding system and excludes us and funds Atlanta, and they do absolutely nothing as far as mass or public transit. So that's a horse that we need to stay on top of. We need to have some guidance there. The Marshlands Protection, I agree. That needs to be modified so that it's not a challenge to the Marshlands Protection Act, but we need to specify the limits — limited sections that perhaps there are — we as a Commission find objectionable. We've been treated unfairly on the prisoner situation, but we're in an economic depression. We will not get new money for inmates in Chatham County this year. If we do, I hope that we do, I just don't foresee it.

Chairman Liakakis said, Patrick [Farrell] and then you, Dean [Kicklighter].

Commissioner Farrell said, on item three, just for clarification to the listening public, the problem that our Engineering problem — Engineering Department has come into is on existing roads through the unincorporated area and on drainage. When there's damage to a ditch or damage to a road through erosion or other things, we have to apply for a Coastal Marshlands Protection Act permit to do repairs currently, and that takes up to two years. So we're not asking for very much, but we would like to be able to repair our roads and ditches in a timely manner and not go through arduous permitting for something that's already there and has been in many cases there for many, many decades. It's just so that's in a nutshell what the revision to the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act that we're looking for.

County Attorney Hart said, this is just a similar exemption that the Department of Transportation and the State of Georgia grants itself, so —.

Mr. Hughes said, that's right, and to further clarify it, what we're forced to do right now is tie it to a DOT project to get some sort of funding and then once they do that, it's immediately allowed because they're not really a land disturb—, marsh disturbance act that they're asking them to do. You're talking about grass in the bottom of a ditch holding up a drainage improvement project.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not an attorney so that's why I ask legal questions, and honestly I would have no problem with appearing on CNN because I don't think the public cares who owns the jail as long as the prisoners stay in jail. You know, I think we definitely have to think outside the box. It was me that brought forth the possibility of us being able to purchase vehicles and vehicle replacement with sales tax monies, and we were able to do that, and if there's a way of, you know, get some of the monies back, I could easily — I would get on CNN proudly and tell them that, yeah, we transferred ownership but it saves the taxpayers $16 million a year. That wouldn't bother me a bit, you know, as long as they are saving money and keeping prisoners behind bars, but y'all are the attorneys. I respect your opinion and thank you.

Chairman Liakakis recognized Commissioner Shay.

Commissioner Shay said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to try a motion here that we adopt the legislative priorities that are included on the screen in front of us as Draft 4 with the notes that Mr. Hughes has made on the screen, which basically add "watch for inclusion in support of public transit" to the item now number two, and then adds the words "from certain provisions of that Act" to number three, and I'd also like to ask that number seven, priority number seven actually be moved up to priority number three and then everything else kind of drop back down from that so that our third ranked priority would be for the reimbursement of prisoners in the Chatham County Detention Center up to a fair level, and in deference to Commissioner Kicklighter, I think it would be fair to say or at least the same rate as what they're paying private operators.

Mr. Hughes said, which I think is about $40 a day.

Chairman Liakakis said, yeah, and the way they justify —.

Commissioner Shay said, not that we're going to get it, okay. I understand, but our chances are slim here, but I think that if we allow to start falling down to the bottom of the table and put it above request for $100,000, then we're not really doing a great service to ourselves.

Commissioner Farrell said, second.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, let's take it from the top then. Alright, we leave number one as it is, correct? The Commissioners said, right. Chairman Liakakis said, alright, then number two we leave it as is.

Commissioner Shay said, but we add the expression "watch for the inclusion and support of —."

Chairman Liakakis said, oh, yeah. I mean, the way it's written own. The Commissioners said, right. Chairman Liakakis said, and then number three — number seven will go to three. Commissioner Shay said, right. Chairman Liakakis said, and then we move the rest of them down, so number three would go to number four and so on down the line. Commissioner Shay said, absolutely, yes sir.

Commissioner Odell said, and Mr. Chairman, as to number three, we're going to add the language to this that Farrell indicated. Commissioner Shay said, yeah, it's going to say from certain provisions of that act and —.

Chairman Liakakis said, well, let's get with the — because the Engineers has had this huge problem and —. Commissioner Shay said, but we covered it. Chairman Liakakis said, — and you get with the Engineer. He covered that part, but the Engineer had something else in addition to what you said, Patrick [Shay], so that's what I was talking about.

Commissioner Odell asked, has it been seconded? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, not yet. Commissioner Farrell said, I seconded it. Commissioner Thomas asked, you did? Commissioner Odell said, we solved that.

Chairman Liakakis said, okay, then let's go on the board. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Liakakis said, the motion passes.

Chatham County 2009 Legislative Priorities
DRAFT 4
October 17, 2008

1. Urge the legislature and the Governor to fully fund the Homeowner's Tax Relief Grant as already granted by the Chatham County Tax Commissioner

2. Monitor development of new Transportation Infrastructure Funding Policies

3. Revise coastal Marshlands Protection Act to exempt political subdivisions

4. Pass legislation to raise the fees associated with NPDES permits

5. Request $100,000 for maintaining the dredge spoils containment area

6. Request $100,000 for the Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center

7. Request higher reimbursement rate for prisoners in County Detention Center

8. Monitor development of proposal to allow local government to bid out collection of sales taxes to third parties

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Shay and seconded by Commissioner Thomas the board recessed at 11:43 a.m. to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:23 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST APPROVAL OF STIPULATION FOR SETTLEMENT OF BUFFET HOLDINGS BANKRUPTCY CASE (JONATHAN HART).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve the stipulation for settlement of Buffet Holdings bankruptcy case in the amount of $13,624.18. Commissioner Stone seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Shay moved to approve a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute an Affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008

_____
PETE LIAKAKIS, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

_____
SYBIL E. TILLMAN, CLERK OF COMMISSION